



Minute of Mercy

INSTRUCT THE IGNORANT

Instructing the ignorant can be and often is a very difficult subject to discuss, not to mention, to put into practice. We are obligated to do so, as it is one of the Spiritual Works of Mercy. However, this does not make it easy to do. Many times we fear offending the person; and out of our concept of charity, we say and do nothing to instruct someone in their ways of error. However, this is not charity. Sometimes the opposite occurs when we approach someone with good intentions and abrasively tell them of the error of their ways, without considering the anger, hurt or resentment we cause them due to our thoughtlessness. This, of course, is not charity either. One way to look at it is from a parent's perspective. Take for example when we notice our children misbehaving or acting inappropriately. Out of love and wanting them to be the best they can be, we admonish and discourage the wrong doing. We try to do so without damaging the spirit to discouragement but rather to charitably teach the ways of the Lord.

So, how do we instruct the ignorant? As always, and it cannot be repeated enough, that in prayer and docility to the Holy Spirit and guidance of our Heavenly Mother, we shall be led to make the wise decisions and act accordingly. We can also obtain guidance from the saints who offer us a vast array of wisdom and knowledge. For example, [Col 3:12-16], when St. Paul instructs us to clothe ourselves with kindness, humility, gentleness and patience, bearing with one another...."Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns". St. Francis of Assisi has put it simply for us, "Always remember to preach the Gospel, and if necessary, use words."

It is apparent both saints suggest we work on ourselves to reflect the love and compassion of Our Lord, so we shall not be guilty of hypocrisy in our correction of others. We must remember the log in our own eye before we look to pull the splinter from someone else.

Mercy in Action

This week's Mercy in Action is for all of St. Peter Parish to pray for those who are addicted to pornography. Resources can be found on the Year of Mercy table.