



Minute of Mercy

HOSPITALITY

What is hospitality and why is it so important? According to Webster's dictionary, the definition of hospitality is:

the act or practice of one who is hospitable; reception and entertainment of strangers or guests without reward, or with kind and generous liberality.

As Catholics, this is what we are called to do. We see this behavior exhorted many times by St. Peter and St. Paul, as they would greet each other with a holy kiss [1Peter 5:14, Romans 9-13 & 16:16, 2 Corinthians 13: 11 & 12, 1 Thessal 5:2]. We also see many examples of hospitality throughout the Gospels. One such example is when, after Jesus heals St. Peter's mother in law, she begins to prepare and serve food to all present. This demonstrates that the call to hospitality must be authentic and genuine; and in order to be so, it must be done with love and with the joy of serving.

Who better to turn to in our times now than our newly canonized saint, St. Mother Teresa! All who came in contact with her knew of her love for them. Let us study her and look to her life's example to show us how it is to be done. She also taught and showed us that without a sincere and devoted life of prayer, nothing could be accomplished nor sustained for so many years. Let us not forget the simplest yet efficacious act that has no cost, but goes further than we might ever imagine - the simple act of smiling at someone. St. Teresa of Calcutta said, "Every time you smile at someone, it is an action of love, a gift to that person, a beautiful thing."

Mercy in Action

This week's Mercy in Action is for all of St. Peter Parish to consider volunteering for one of the many various ministries of our parish. This week in particular, the Hospitality Ministry is looking for volunteers. Cards can be found in the back of church to sign up. You can also visit the website for more information at www.stpeterparish.com/volunteer-opportunities.