



Fraternity of Fatherhood

A Spiritual Fraternity for All Men

Volume 8

Issue 2

June 10, 2019

Corporal Works Of Mercy

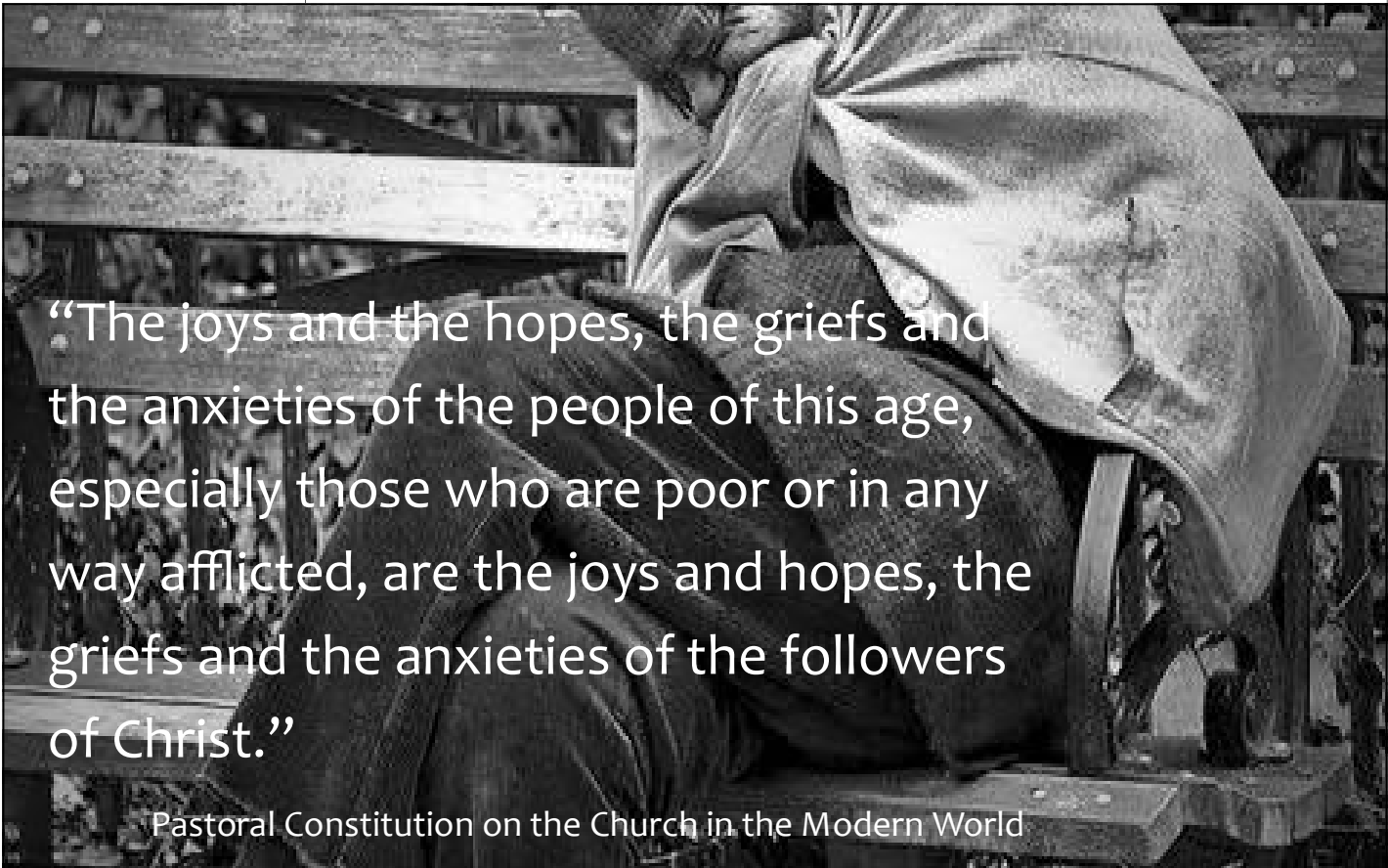
By Brendan McVicker

Corporal Works of Mercy – acts of love that care for people's physical and material needs.

One area in particular that haunts my heart is how I am caring for my neighbor, or should I say, lack of focus I have had on caring for my neighbor. There are seven Corporal Works of Mercy and I was taught these from a very young age:

- Feed the Hungry
- Give Drink to the Thirsty
- Clothe the Naked
- Shelter the Homeless
- Visit the Sick
- Visit the Imprisoned
- Bury the Dead

I don't remember who said this to me some time ago, but it really hit me. It made me really think. This person said, some day when you die and you find yourself before our Lord is He going to ask you what church you belong to or how many rosaries you said or is He going to ask you how you cared for your neighbor? Not saying those are not important but I get his point. The Corporal Works of Mercy are not suggestions that Jesus gave us in the Last Judgement parable, Matthew 25: 31-46, but these are commands. How many times have I (...continued page 2)



“The joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the people of this age, especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted, are the joys and hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the followers of Christ.”

Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World

Corporal Works Of Mercy

...continued from page 1

found myself saying I will do it tomorrow, I have to get the yard done today or I will start next weekend because there is a game I want to see today. Hey , this is me. Not someone else. It's me and it scared me. I think the Lord is giving me a wake-up call. If you don't think you can do it or you are afraid, God says you can do it. He has given you the grace.

It is really easy to go day to day in your busy life and forget how important it is to love and take care of our neighbors. Matthew 25:31-48 states.....

31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. 32All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. 34 "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' 37 "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hun-

gry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? 39When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' 40 "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' 41 "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. 42For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.' 44 "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?' 45 "He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.' 46 "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

That is powerful scripture reading. Jesus directly tells us that we will find Him in the poor and marginalized. Whatever we did for one of the least brothers and sisters, we did for Him. So my invitation to you is to join me, and work to become active in the Corporal Works of Mercy. We are all busy in this world but the Lord is asking us to look beyond just ourselves and our own family and give attention to those in need.

You Say... God Says...

You Say	God Says	Bible Verses
I can't figure it out.	I will direct your steps.	Proverbs 3:5-6
I'm too tired.	I will give you rest.	Matthew 11:28-30
It's impossible.	All things are possible.	Luke 18:27
Nobody loves me.	I love you.	John 3:16
I can't forgive myself.	I forgive you.	Romans 8:1
It's not worth it.	It will be worth it.	Romans 8:28
I'm not smart enough.	I will give you wisdom.	I Corinthians 1:30
I'm not able.	I am able.	II Corinthians 9:8
I can't go on.	My grace is sufficient.	II Corinthians 12:9
I can't do it.	You can do all things.	Philippians 4:13
I can't manage.	I will supply all you needs.	Philippians 4:19
I'm afraid.	I have not given you fear.	II Timothy 1:7
I feel all alone.	I will never leave you.	Hebrews 13:5

Prison Ministry - NW Regional Re-entry Center By: Brian Martinek

As taken from the April 13, 2019 Prison Ministry Conference in Mount Angel , Oregon“In the fall of 2016, Archbishop Sample, in consultation with the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council, identified Works of Mercy, especially expanding prison ministry, as one of six pastoral priorities. As God is both just and merciful, justice flows from the Gospel mandate of Matthew 25 for performing Works of Mercy in our world. The Church in its Eucharistic mission seeks to bring “all the nations” into right relationship as the Kingdom of God, a place of eternal justice and peace. Certainly criminal acts are the antithesis of peace, skewing the lives and souls of victim, offender and everyone associated with them and with the event. Crime dramatically disrupts the quest for a whole and holy community, but it is also the result of a community that is not whole and holy. So what is the Catholic, Christian response to crime? How do we respond to and care for victims? How do we treat offenders? How do we rebuild community and restore it? These are large questions.”

(Brian Martinek is a member of the Portland, OR Fraternity of Fatherhood. Brian shared the following on his work with our Newsletter Editors and we wanted to share it with all. He works with prisoners daily, an inspiration and true corporal act of mercy.)



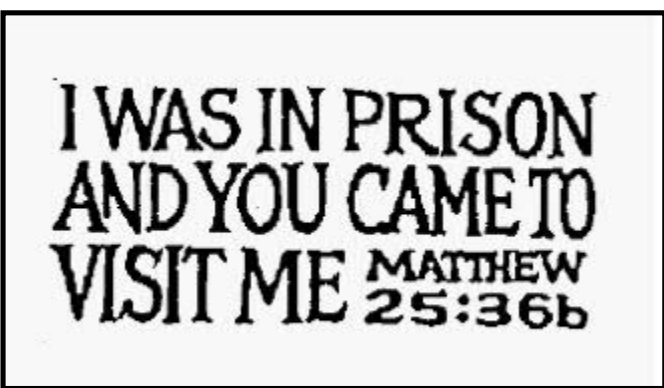
Basically, I work with prisoners every day! We have a 150 bed facility for female and male inmates who come to my re-entry detention facility from all over the U.S. to work on their re-entry back into their Oregon or SW Washington communities. So, for me going to the Mt. Angel conference was more about getting involved with the arch diocese and the lay people who are interested in Prison ministry to learn about what the Arch Diocese of Portland office of Prison ministry program is and plans to become.

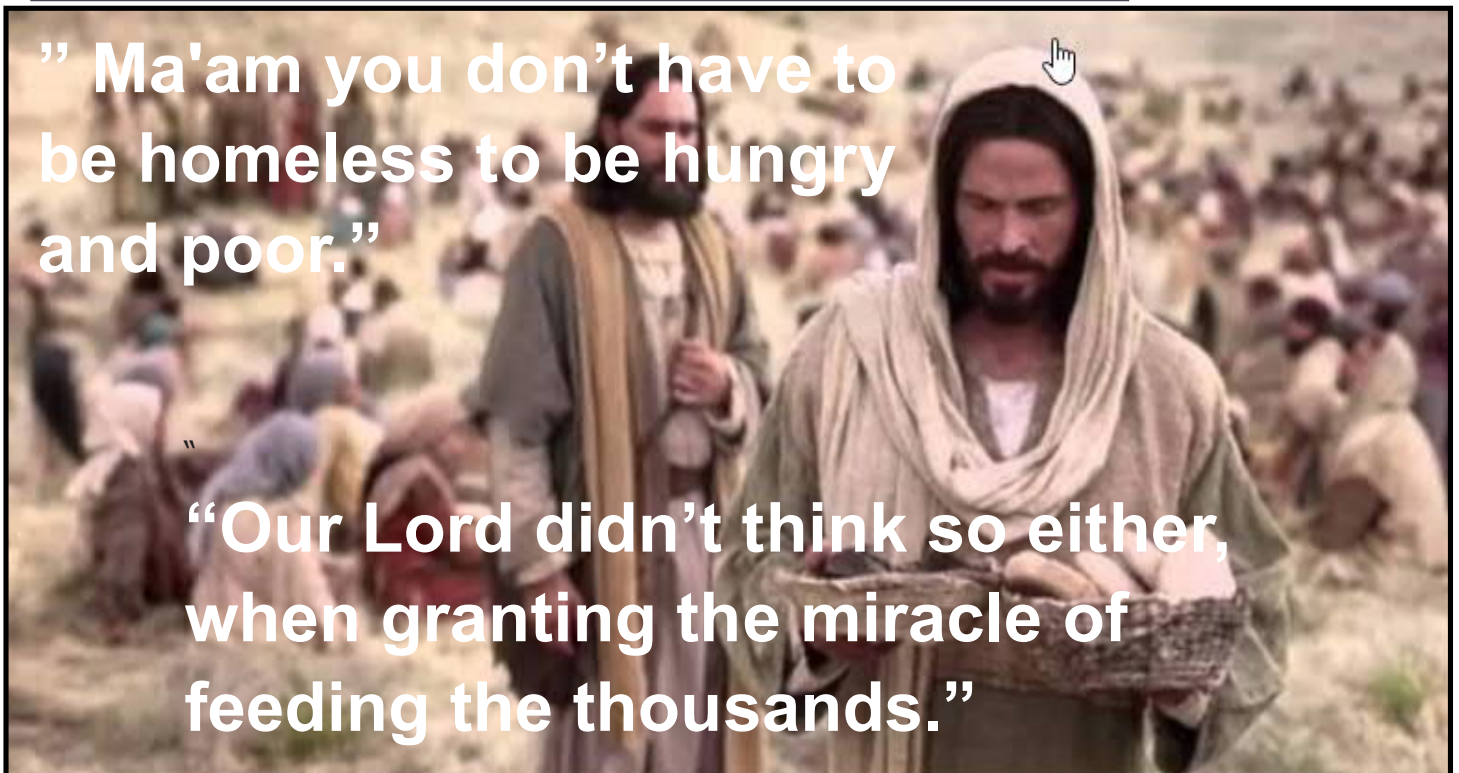
Prison Ministry in the Arch Diocese of Portland is very decentralized and under developed right now from what I can tell. There are a lot of passionate and compassionate lay people, some who are already involved and some who want to be involved. I think it needs to be more organized than it is and that is what they seem to be working on. In my professional and personal opinion it is critically important for a person’s ultimate, successful re-entry that incarcerated people have access, encouragement and involvement with their faith while in prison. It is more or as important as mental and physical health. It was interesting to hear from

the Director of Oregon’s Department of Corrections Collette Peters who seems to be a “faith based leader” who believes in the Prison Ministry model. Arch Bishop Sample was a very passionate and inspiring advocate at the conference as well. He shared some of his prior experience with “on the ground” prison ministry from his time in Minnesota and then with visiting prisons in Oregon as the Arch Bishop. He seems to want to make Prison Ministry more of a priority under his leadership.

In the end having people in our faith communities ready and willing to be there to mentor, encourage and support returning incarcerated people would be one of the best

expressions of Love, Compassion, Mercy and Faith that we could do. Many of the people coming from prison do not have a functional, healthy or faith based support system for them to rely on while making the transition back to community. I think members of the faith communities in Oregon and certainly the Catholic Church parishes have a lot to offer to inmates in jails, prisons, re-entry centers and returning people in their local communities.





The Fruits of Grace Through Mercy

By: Deacon Jack Roland

Greetings my brothers in faith. As Catholic men we are called to protect and provide for our families and loved ones. We are also called to procreate with our wives in a fashion which promotes unity and partner with them for the welfare of our families, in order to sanctify all for the greater glory of God. The Holy Spirit will bring us all we need for each of us to live out the mercy of Christ in our families, but He does not stop there. The Holy Spirit guides us as men and fathers to do the same in our church community and our world according to the station in life we have been blessed with.

How is mercy defined and lived out? We find the answer in scripture. Mercy consists of two distinct yet connected groups of actions. Spiritual works of mercy are acts of Christian charity benefiting another person's soul, while Corporal works of mercy are defined as acts of charity benefiting another's physical person. Christ is our ultimate exemplar of mercy in the Gospels. It is through His Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth, that we receive the grace to discern who, how, and when to apply ourselves in service. The Holy Spirit also provides the power within us to carry out God's will. Let us focus on the Corporal works of mercy for a moment: feeding the hungry, giving drink, clothing others, giving shelter, tending to the sick, visiting the imprisoned, and burying the dead.

Too often I allow my pride and stubbornness to stifle my discernment in one or more of these areas. I am reminded of a story my wife related to me while providing meals in the community with the St. Vincent De-Paul Society. While delivering lunches in a park known as a gathering place for the homeless, a fellow worker commented to her that, "some of those in line look too well-dressed to be homeless." A man standing in line overheard her and responded. "Ma'am you don't have to be homeless to be hungry and poor." Our Lord didn't think so either, when granting the miracle of feeding the thousands.

He didn't ask whether or not they had means to feed themselves. He knew they were hungry and He met their need freely, without conditions. And so, God gives us the gift of opportunity for eternal life through Christ Jesus. God grants us the free will to accept His offer of salvation or not. If we accept our Catechism, we are assured that, "by the power of Spirit, God's children can bear much fruit. 'the fruit of the Spirit: ... love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. We live by the Spirit; the more we renounce ourselves and the more we walk by the Spirit. CCC 736'"

Brothers, as Catholic men whether single, married, or religious we are espoused to Christ. And, if to Christ, we are espoused to the entire world and the gifts of the Spirit will befall us and our works of mercy.

Feeding the Hungry—Feeding Jesus

By: Mike Allison

I'm sure there are many times when we all extend a helping hand to a person in need. The opportunities are certainly all around us. I'm thinking about the corporal works of mercy. Specifically when Jesus instructs us to feed the hungry. After all, there are so many in need.



Yes, we absolutely are to share our food. But I must always ask myself, "What is my disposition?" Am I a cheerful giver? Do I place conditions on my giving? Must the person to whom I am giving, in my mind be worthy or deserving? If that's the case, I have missed the whole point of God's mercy.

I recall a lesson Fr. Santan Pinto shared that always stood out to me and remains in my thoughts and heart. Father reminded his spiritual sons and daughters to give without passing judgment and to see through the eyes of God's good-

ness.

Father gave an example. He said we have no problem going out with a friend or even an acquaintance and buy this person a beer. We spend our money and have a couple of drinks. We don't give it a second thought. But if a poor person wants a beer, we say, I'm not going to give that person money, all they will do is go buy a beer. Why should not a poor person have the enjoyment of a cold beer? Maybe they will not spend the money the way I think they should, but is this a reason not to give?

Brothers, I am not saying we aid intentionally in harming a persons health, but I do not want to set myself up as the one who places judgment and conditions on giving.

Thanks be to God that Jesus did not select only those worthy of his love and mercy. I don't deserve it and that's the sign of true love! We give in imitation of God our Father. We give out of Love.

Perhaps the person desiring a beer is really desiring what we all want and that is the companionship of one to share it with. Perhaps the greatest need is to be touched with a hug, to laugh or just to be looked at directly in the eyes and to be listened to.

In my experiences, these types of encounters are gifts shared through, with and in Jesus. "Whatever you do to the least of my brothers, you do unto me."

Thank you Jesus for giving us a command to love. Praise be Your Holy name!

Thanks be to God
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We give in imitation
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We give out of Love.



Join the Portland Fraternity of
Fatherhood the 2nd Saturday of each
month 7:30—9:30am. Morning mass at
St. Mary's Cathedral followed with
breakfast study session. Call Brendan
McVicker for information
at 503-358-4963

Fraternity of Fatherhood—Group locations & Area Coordinators

Fr. Pinto has encouraged us to grow and expand the Fraternity of Fatherhood all over the world. He has granted us his permission, his blessing and he guides us spiritually. It is with this confidence that we now move forward with humility, obedience and docile hearts. If you are interested in joining a Fraternity of Fatherhood group or if you would like to start a group in your city contact Ray Emnace, Mike Allison, Stacey Hill or Brendan McVicker.

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Fraternity Sacramento Men

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Meet every third Wednesday of the month.

We meet at Denny's in Orangevale at 7:30 pm.

Please contact Mike Allison with any questions at email address...

(meallison5@gmail.com)

Hope you can join!



Saints Corner - Seven Saints of Mercy

By: Joseph Pronechen

In his homily for the canonization of St. Faustina Kowalska, Pope St. John Paul II reminded the faithful that Christ has taught us "man not only receives and experiences the mercy of God, but is also called to practice mercy towards others: 'Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy' (Matthew 5:7). ... Jesus bent over every kind of human poverty, material and spiritual. In this Jubilee Year of Mercy, saints have much to teach us. They became saints by practicing the works of mercy and other acts of holiness. "... This led to the spiritual and corporal 'works of mercy.' Here mercy became a concrete way of being 'neighbor' to one's neediest brothers and sisters."

And as Pope Francis has said, "A little mercy makes the world less cold and more just." Seven special saints did just that.

St. Teresa of Calcutta

Newly canonized St. Teresa of Calcutta is a shining example. She picked up the dying and the poor literally from the gutters, treated them with great kindness and dignity, fed them and attended to them as they lay dying of various diseases. She called them all "Jesus in disguise." And she did these works of mercy with an ever-present joy: "Keep the joy of loving God in your heart and share this joy with all you meet, especially your family," Mother Teresa said.



"Speak tenderly to them. Let there be kindness in your face, in your eyes, in your smile, in the warmth of your greeting. Always have a cheerful smile. Don't only give your care, but give your heart, as well."

She also told us to find our own mercy missions: "Calcuttas are everywhere, if only we have eyes to see. Find your Calcutta." She emphasized: "Jesus made it very clear: Whatever you do to the least of my brethren, you do it to me. Give a glass of water, you give it to me. Receive a little child, you receive me."

St. Catherine of Siena

In the 14th century, St. Catherine of Siena put tremendous mercy into action during her 33 years of life. Declared a doctor of the Church by Blessed Paul VI, the lay (tertiary) Dominican patiently advised, spiritually counseled and prayed for endless lines of troubled people seeking her help. Three priests were assigned to no other duty but hearing the confessions of the people she counseled. She was even an adviser to popes.

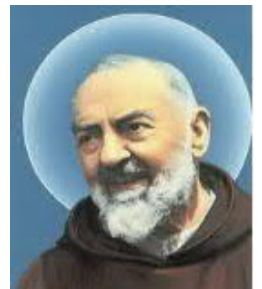


At the same time, like so many other saints, Catherine engaged in tasks like caring for the sick and feeding the elderly. Fearlessly, she tended to those stricken during a plague, comforted the dying and even buried the dead herself. Many times, her acts of mercy were even supernatural. For example, in her hands, food would be multiplied by God. She tended patiently to one woman, banished from the city because of her horrible leprosy, in the face of the woman's bitter complaints. Eventually the woman converted through Catherine's prayer and patient attendance.

Many others converted through Catherine's prayers and sacrifices for the conversion of sinners. Her every deed was truly mercy in action.

St. Pio

Who can doubt the example of mercy in action in St. Pio of Pietrelcina? Through as many as 12 hours in the confessional every day, Padre Pio practiced mercy to countless repentant sinners, offering them forgiveness and conversion. As St. John Paul II said of him, "Padre Pio was a generous dispenser of Divine Mercy."



Yet he saw his own need of it, stating, "Jesus continues to love me and to draw me closer to himself. He has forgotten my sins, and I would say that he remembers only his own mercy. Each morning, he comes into my heart and pours out all the effusions of his goodness."

Saints Corner - Seven Saints of Mercy ...continued

St. Thérèse

St. Thérèse of Lisieux, the Little Flower, was a practitioner of mercy, too — all according to her "Little Way." As the saint told us in her autobiography, *Story of A Soul*, "I applied myself above all to practice quite hidden little acts of virtue; thus I liked to fold the mantles forgotten by the sisters and sought a thousand opportunities of rendering them service."

"I ought to seek the company of those sisters who, according to nature, please me least. I ought to fulfill in their regard the office of the Good Samaritan," she also wrote of her merciful aim. "A word, a kindly smile, will often suffice to gladden a wounded and sorrowful heart."

She truly comforted the sorrowful. And many times, she, like Catherine of Siena, had to practice the spiritual work of mercy of bearing wrongs patiently.



St. Marianne Cope

St. Marianne Cope helped found two of the first Catholic hospitals in central New York. At St. Joseph's Hospital in Syracuse, she was criticized for treating the outcasts of society, including alcoholics. But that never stopped her from giving them all ample attention with kindness.

Then, in 1883, a letter arrived asking her go to the Hawaiian Islands to work with those suffering with leprosy. She wrote: "I am hungry for the work, and I wish with all my heart to be one of the chosen ones whose privilege it will be to sacrifice themselves for the salvation of the souls of the poor Islanders. ... It would be my greatest delight even to minister to the abandoned 'lepers.'" With six sisters, St. Marianne first supervised the Oahu hospital that received leprosy patients. They also cared for the patients' children, who were rejected by society. When the government exiled the lepers to the island of Molokai, Mother Marianne and her sisters went, too.



They helped the dying Father Damien de Veuster, who has been canonized a saint himself, and ran homes for the little girls and boys. She said their primary duty was "to make life as pleasant and as comfortable as possible for those of our fellow creatures whom God has chosen to afflict with this terrible disease." Her own words show her desire to practice mercy: "My heart bled for the children, and I was anxious and hungry to help put a little more sunshine into their dreary lives." about what gift I will accept from God as purification for the things that are good and holy.

St. Faustina and St. John Paul

St. Faustina not only brought the world the message of Divine Mercy given by Jesus, but she acted with that mercy, even in the simplest service as porter of the convent gate.

"Oh, how happy I am that my superiors have given me such a task!" she exclaimed. "I understand that mercy is manifold; one can do good always and everywhere and at all times. An ardent love of God sees all around itself constant opportunities to share itself through deed, word and prayer" (St. Faustina's diary, 1313).



What prompted this response in Faustina was an experience similar to what St. Martin of Tours had many centuries earlier. She described the story in her diary (1312):

"Jesus came to the main entrance today, under the guise of a poor young man. This young man, emaciated, barefoot and bareheaded, and with his clothes in tatters, was frozen because the day was cold and rainy. He asked for something hot to eat. So I went to the kitchen, but found nothing

Saints Corner - Seven Saints of Mercy

...continued

there for the poor. But, after searching around for some time, I succeeded in finding some soup, which I reheated and into which I crumbled some bread; and I gave it to the poor young man, who ate it. As I was taking the bowl from him, he gave me to know that he was the Lord of heaven and earth. When I saw him as he was, he vanished from my sight. When I went back in and reflected on what had happened at the gate, I heard these words in my soul: *My daughter, the blessings of the poor who bless me as they leave this gate have reached my ears. And your compassion, within the bounds of obedience, has pleased me, and this is why I came down from my throne — to taste the fruits of your mercy.*"

As St. John Paul II reminded the faithful at the Shrine of Divine Mercy in Krakow, Poland, in 1997, "There is nothing more man needs than Divine Mercy — that love which is benevolent, which is compassionate, which raises man above his weakness to the infinite heights, to the holiness of God."

The Polish pope was indeed a mercy messenger, proclaiming God's infinite love to the ends of the earth — even famously exhibiting mercy to the man who tried to assassinate him in 1981. He is the pope who promulgated the message of Divine Mercy to the world, by canonizing Faustina as the first saint of the new millennium and designating widespread devotion of Divine Mercy on the Second Sunday of Easter.



These saints, and so many others, teach us we can practice mercy wherever God has placed us — whether through action, words or prayer.

As Jesus explained the three degrees of mercy to Faustina: "The first: the act of mercy, of whatever kind. The second: the word of mercy — if I cannot carry out a work of mercy, I will assist by my words. The third: prayer — if I cannot show mercy by deeds or words, I can always do so by prayer. My prayer reaches out even there where I cannot reach out physically."

Pentecost Sunday is a commemoration and celebration of the receiving of the Holy Spirit by the early church. John the Baptist prophesied of the first Pentecost when Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire ([Matthew 3:11](#)). Jesus confirmed this prophecy with the promise of the Holy Spirit to the disciples in [John 14:26](#). He showed Himself to these men after His death on the cross and His resurrection, giving convincing proofs that He was alive. Jesus told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the Father's gift of the Holy Spirit, from whom they would receive power to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth ([Acts 1:3-8](#)). After Jesus' ascension to heaven, the men returned to Jerusalem and joined together in prayer in an upper room. On the Day of Pentecost, just as promised, the sound of a violent wind filled the house and tongues of fire came to rest on each of them and all were filled with the Holy Spirit. They were given the power of communication, which Peter used to begin the ministry for which Jesus had prepared him. After the coming of the Holy Spirit, the disciples did not stay in the room basking in God's glory but burst out to tell the world. This was the beginning of the church as we know it.



The Chaplet of Divine Mercy—Take Advantage of the Gift

The On September 13, 1935, Sister Faustina had a terrible vision of a destroying Angel ("the agent of divine wrath") about to strike some place on the planet. She began praying, begging him to put off the punishment until the world did penance. At first, her pleas seemed in vain, but presently she saw the Holy Trinity and felt the power of Christ's grace in her soul. Again she began to plead for the world in words that welled up out of the silence of her soul: *"Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, for our sins and those of the whole world; for the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us"* (475).

Her prayer was answered and the angel was prevented from carrying out the chastisement. The following morning, Sister Faustina heard these interior words: *"Every time you enter the chapel, start reciting the prayer which I taught you yesterday"* (476).

Later, she was instructed in the recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy: *"This prayer will serve to appease My wrath. You will recite it for nine days, on the beads of the Rosary, in the following manner: first of all, you will say one Our Father and Hail Mary and the I Believe in God. Then, on the Our Father beads, you will say the following words: 'Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, for our sins and those of the whole world.' On the Hail Mary beads you will say the following words: 'For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.' In conclusion, three times you will recite these words: 'Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world' "* (476).

Jesus Himself tells us why it is so important to recite this prayer: *"Recite the chaplet unceasingly that I have taught you. Whoever recites it will receive great mercy at the hour of death. Priests will recommend it to sinners as their last hope of salvation. Even in the case of the most hardened sinner, if he were to recite this chaplet only once, he would receive grace from My infinite mercy. I desire that the whole world know My infinite mercy. I desire to grant unimaginable graces to those souls that trust in My mercy"* (687).

"Oh, what great graces I will grant to souls that say this chaplet; the very depths of My tender mercy are stirred for the sake of those who say the chaplet" (848). *"At the hour of their death, I defend as My own glory every soul that will say this chaplet; or when others say it for a dying person, the indulgence is the same"* (811). *"Through the chaplet you will obtain everything, if what you ask is compatible with My will"* (1731).





POSTAGE

Fraternity of Fatherhood

We entrust the Fatherhood Fraternity to the patronage of St. Joseph.



St. Joseph ...Pray For Us.



This Fraternity of Fatherhood Newsletter is published every 90 days. Next edition: Sept 2019
To submit feedback and/or suggestions for future article topics, please email the editors,

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