



YEAR OF FAITH

JULY 2022

MERCY in ACTION

Somebody needs to do something!!!

We hear this all the time. We see it on TV. We hear it in the news. We are overcome by seeing crime and injustice, people in need, and children hurting. We pray that God will fix it. We ask our government to fix it. We want **SOMEONE** to fix it. Finally, we come to realize that **it is up to US to fix it**. This month we want to focus on how each of us has the opportunity to make our world a better place.

An Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy with Fr. Mike Schmitz (4:53) <https://youtu.be/rrljStx9RQY>

In 2016 Pope Francis declared a Jubilee Year of Mercy. It was something so important to all of us that it should be the focus of our lives every day. In this video, Fr. Mike Schmitz offers some insight on that, explaining the significance of a Jubilee Year and showing how we can be merciful toward others in our everyday lives through the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.

Pope Francis tells us that the mission of the church is to bring God's mercy to the world. Since **we are the church, it is our mission to bring God's mercy to the world**.

How do we do this? We can't even bring God's mercy to our dinner table! Here are 3 things we can do.

1. **Take other people seriously.** Are there issues in their lives? Are there issues going on in their heart right now that I could help with?
2. **Take other people's suffering personally.** St. Thomas Aquinas talks about taking another person's misery as one's own.
3. **Do what you can, not what you can't.**

Mercy is action. Start with those closest to you. Start in our own homes, in our own family, in our own neighborhood, our parish, our school and where we work. It happens in the grocery store, on the freeway and at a restaurant. A random act of kindness can help a person feel noticed, needed and appreciated.

The Corporal Works of Mercy <https://youtu.be/CBpwviO2e5g> (10:03)

In this video, Dr. Pitre discusses the Corporal Works of Mercy based on Isaiah 58, Matthew 5 and Matthew 25. Being a disciple of Jesus entails engaging in acts of charity, works of mercy and evangelization and Dr. Pitre shows how to apply this in our everyday family life.

The titles of the following videos say it all. If you need a lift today, watch these!!!

Random Acts of Kindness That Will Make You Cry ☐ | Faith In Humanity Restored

<https://youtu.be/exen6ROns8g>

Random Acts of Kindness That Will Make You Cry ! <https://youtu.be/NP6ZJwptRCI>

Prayer of Mother Teresa –

The fruit of silence is prayer; the fruit of prayer is faith;

The fruit of faith is love; the fruit of love is service, and

The fruit of service is peace.

Let us meditate on those words and do our part to move our world to real love and peace.

Books

The Generosity Habit –Matthew Kelly’s Books and Ideas have been inspiring men, women, and children of all ages for thirty years. Now he directs our attention toward a single idea that has the power to inject our lives with limitless meaning and purpose, while at the same time transforming the world. That single idea: generosity.

The Generosity Habit is built on a simple and profound principle: give something away every day. It doesn't need to be money or material things. It could be complimenting a stranger, teaching someone how to do something, spreading a positive message, helping someone who is in a hurry, or simply smiling at someone generously. In fact, the philosophy behind the generosity habit rests on this singular truth: You don't need money or material possessions to live a life of staggering generosity.

This book is a profound and practical invitation to go beyond the problems plaguing society and become part of the solution. Along the way, you will discover the beauty and nobility of your own humanity.

Here are some ideas of Acts of Mercy that can be performed in your own **FAMILY**:

- Catch a family member doing something kind and acknowledge it.
- Be observant of family members. Did they have a hard day at work or school? Offer to fix supper or do the dishes so they can relax.
- Call an elderly family member just to check in on them and let them know you are thinking of them.
- Express your appreciation for what your family members do for you.
- Demonstrate kindness and patience to your children. Teach by example.
- Try to understand rather than criticize.
- Listen more.
- Encourage your children and your spouse. We all need a cheerleader at times.
- Pray! We need the Lord’s guidance to help our family be the best they can be.

Look at all the ministries in our **PARISH** and pray to the Holy Spirit to help you find the love, grace, and strength you need to be of service.

- Pray for our priests. Thank them for their work. We ALL need to know that our efforts are appreciated.
- Volunteer to work with or donate to the St. Vincent de Paul Ministry.
- Volunteer one Saturday morning a month to work with the St. Joseph Ministry to clean, repair and maintain our parish campus.
- Offer to drive someone to Mass.
- Send a note or card to someone who has been ill, lost a loved one or might just need some encouragement.
- Volunteer to do Altar Linens.
- Join the Ministry to the Sick to take the Eucharist to those who are unable to attend Mass.
- Volunteer to help with the technical aspects of streaming the Mass, showing videos, or displaying the prayers and music at Mass.
- Pray for the souls in purgatory
- Thank the office staff for all the work they do for our parish family.
- Let the custodian know you appreciate his work all around the church and the grounds.
- Pray for our parish.

Mother Teresa said, “There is more hunger in the world for love and appreciation than for bread.”

Here are some ways to do that in your **COMMUNITY**:

- Smile. Smile generously. Smile at strangers. Peace begins with a smile.
- Remember people’s names, birthdays, and their story.
- Tip generously when you can. It tells your server they are appreciated.
- Use social media to send positive messages.
- Compliment a stranger. Thank those who serve you.
- Contribute time or money to a charity that you feel is having a positive impact on your community.
- Visit the lonely. The elderly are often the worst affected by being alone.
- Donate at our next Blood Drive.
- Keep bottles of water and granola bars in your car to pass out to people in need at stoplights.
- Support local businesses.
- Pick up trash.
- Volunteer for community events.
- Be informed when voting to help our society reflect Christian values.
- Pray for those in our government.

If you still need ideas or just some “feel good” moments, go back and watch these videos:

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