

5.14.2016

TO COMFORT THE AFFLICTED

The Last Cab Ride

This is the Year of Mercy. We continue to explore the Works of Mercy. Today's discussion is on the Spiritual work of Mercy: To Comfort the Afflicted.

Today's talk has an objective of helping us to allow God to enrich our relationships. Scripture tells us that if we live in Christ that we will have Abundant Life. More so, we will become an agent for God's Work.

"I shall pass through this world but once. Any good, therefore, that I can do or any kindness I can show to any human being let me do it now... for I shall not pass this way again."

Etienne Grillet

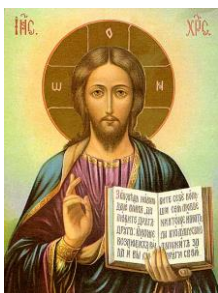
It is often said by elderly folks that there will come a time when all the things that used to be so important to us won't be as important anymore. More so, that only the simple truths in life really matter. They suggest that someday we will learn how to value friends over schedules and love over material things.

Every now and then you stumble across something small. A word, a photograph or just a gesture so small they almost didn't get noticed, but of which you feel with every vessel and vein in your body, that it made a difference.

Shortly we will view the true story of Kent Nerburn, a sculptor that was driving a NYC-cab to make a living, in which he was called for a ride that became anything but a regular cab ride for him and his passenger.

It documents the event, the impact and the change in his point of view. His life was enriched. His was given Abundant Life by saying yes to God's call. We are planted in places, times and relationships to be a witness to Christ. Each of our various relationships and interactions, with others in all walks of life and with all you come into contact with; has a special message that is to be delivered. You are the Messenger. You have a unique Mission Statement.

What happens to our lives when we make a shift in our attitude and admit that Jesus is our Savior and invite Him into our heart of hearts? Let us listen attentively to the wisdom found in Holy Scripture, our Catechism and in Modern Comment.



Matthew 22:34-39 – The Greatest Commandment

When the Pharisees heard that he silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them a scholar of the law, tested him by asking, "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: you shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Romans 13:8-10 - Love Fulfills the Law

Owe nothing to anyone, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; you shall not kill; you shall not steal; you shall not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this saying, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no evil to the neighbor; hence, love is the fulfillment of the law.

Luke 10:29-30, 33-37 - The Good Samaritan

He said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

Jesus replied, "But a Samaritan traveler who came upon him was moved with compassion at the sight. He approached the victim, poured oil and wine over his wounds and bandaged them. Then he lifted him up on his own animal, took him to an inn and cared for him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper with the instruction, 'Take care of him. If you spend more than what I have given you, I shall repay you on my way back.' Which one of these three, in your opinion, was neighbor to the robbers' victim?" He answered, "The one who treated him with mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

The Word of the Lord

Catechism

2447 - Works of Mercy

The works of mercy are charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbor in his spiritual and bodily necessities. Instructing, advising, consoling, comforting are spiritual works of mercy, as are forgiving and bearing wrongs patiently.

The corporal works of mercy consist especially in feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned, and burying the dead. Among all these, giving alms to the poor is one of the chief witnesses to fraternal charity; it is also a work of justice pleasing to God.



Modern Comment

TO COMFORT THE AFFLICTED: The Cab Ride I'll Never Forget

by Kent Nerburn

Twenty years ago, I drove a cab for a living. One time I arrived in the middle of the night for a pick up at a building that was dark except for a single light in a ground floor window.

Under these circumstances, many drivers would just honk once or twice, wait a minute, and then drive away. But I had seen too many impoverished people who depended on taxis as their only means of transportation. Unless a situation smelled of danger, I always went to the door. This passenger might be someone who needs my assistance, I reasoned to myself. So I walked to the door and knocked.

"Just a minute," answered a frail, elderly voice.

I could hear something being dragged across the floor. After a long pause, the door opened. A small woman in her 80's stood before me. She was wearing a print dress and a pillbox hat with a veil pinned on it, like somebody out of a 1940s movie. By her side was a small nylon suitcase.

The apartment looked as if no one had lived in it for years. All the furniture was covered with sheets. There were no clocks on the walls, no knickknacks or utensils on the counters. In the corner was a cardboard box filled with photos and glassware.

"Would you carry my bag out to the car?" she said. I took the suitcase to the cab, then returned to assist the woman. She took my arm and we walked slowly toward the curb. She kept thanking me for my kindness.

"It's nothing," I told her. "I just try to treat my passengers the way I would want my mother treated."

"Oh, you're such a good boy," she said. When we got in the cab, she gave me an address, then asked, "Could you drive through downtown?"

"It's not the shortest way," I answered quickly. "Oh, I don't mind," she said. "I'm in no hurry. I'm on my way to a hospice."

I looked in the rear view mirror. Her eyes were glistening.

"I don't have any family left," she continued. "The doctor says I don't have very long." I quietly reached over and shut off the meter. "What route would you like me to take?" I asked.

For the next two hours, we drove through the city. She showed me the building where she had once worked as an elevator operator. We drove through the neighborhood where she and her husband had lived when they were newlyweds. She had me pull up in front of a furniture warehouse that had once been a ballroom where she had gone dancing as a girl.

Sometimes she'd ask me to slow in front of a particular building or corner and would sit staring into the darkness, saying nothing. As the first hint of sun was creating the horizon, she suddenly said, "I'm tired. Let's go now."

We drove in silence to the address she had given me.

It was a low building, like a small convalescent home, with a driveway that passed under a portico. Two orderlies came out to the cab as soon as we pulled up. They were solicitous and intent, watching her every move. They must have been expecting her. I opened the trunk and took the small suitcase to the door. The woman was already seated in a wheelchair.

"How much do I owe you?" she asked, reaching into her purse. "Nothing," I said.

"You have to make a living," she answered. "There are other passengers."

Almost without thinking, I bent and gave her a hug. She held onto me tightly. "You gave an old woman a little moment of joy," she said. "Thank you."

I squeezed her hand, then walked into the dim morning light. Behind me, a door shut. It was the sound of the closing of a life.

I didn't pick up any more passengers that shift. I drove aimlessly, lost in thought. For the rest of that day, I could hardly talk. What if that woman had gotten an angry driver, or one who was impatient to end his shift? What if I had refused to take the run, or had honked once, then driven away?

On a quick review, I don't think that I have done anything more important in my life. We're conditioned to think that our lives revolve around great moments. But great moments often catch us unaware – beautifully wrapped in what others may consider a small one.

We're all richer and better—and more like Jesus—when we put our faith to work with the works of mercy.

PEOPLE MAY NOT REMEMBER EXACTLY WHAT YOU DID OR WHAT YOU SAID, BUT THEY WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER HOW YOU MADE THEM FEEL.

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.
Psalm 51:2

Questions to Focus on:

1. In what way does this message speak to you?

2. Have you had a time in your life when someone took the time and did something for you that really made a difference or a memory? Explain.

3. What future action(s) might you take having heard this story?

Sometimes our light goes out but is blown again into a flame by an encounter with another human being. Each of us owes the deepest thanks to those who have rekindled this inner light. Albert Schweitzer

5/28/2016	Leadership Meeting	8 AM Sacred Heart Library
6/11/2016	Men's Group	7 AM Mass
6/25/2016	Leadership Meeting	8 AM Sacred Heart Library
7/9/2016	Men's Group	7 AM Mass
7/23/2016	Leadership Meeting	8 AM Sacred Heart Library

Men's Group Calendar

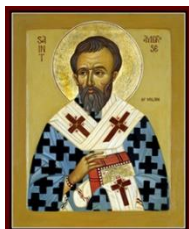


A Man who never quits is Never Defeated.

Saints are holy people, just regular human persons who lived extraordinary lives. Saints responded to God's invitation to use their unique gifts. They are teachers and guides for us. God calls each one of us to lead a life of exceptional holiness.

No one would remember the Good Samaritan if he only had good intentions.
Put your Faith into Actions.

May God Bless You.
St. Hilary Men's Group



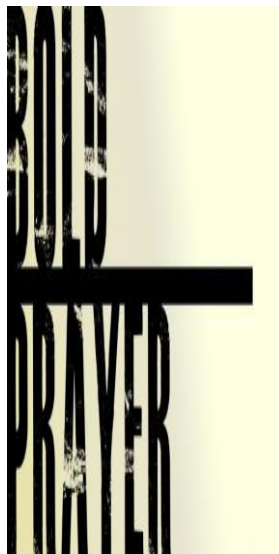
“Paul tells you that every place is a place of prayer, though our Savior says: go into your “room” to pray. You must understand this is not a room enclosed by walls that imprison your body, but the room that is within you, the room where you hide your thoughts, where you keep your affections.

This room of prayer is always with you wherever you are, and it is always a secret room, where only God can see you.” Saint Ambrose

ACTION PLAN

This week I will do my best to listen to God's will in my life by:

- Creating a daily prayer practice.
- Seeking God in prayer and being quiet in His presence.
- Paying more attention to God's Blessings in my life.
- Asking Jesus for help in becoming a better servant.
- Practice Comforting the Afflicted.



Lord, God and Savior, by your love you draw me to yourself. Forgive me – the sinner that I am, and fill me with every good thing, not withholding even the gift of your most beloved son. Come dwell in my heart.

Send forth your Holy Spirit to guide me in your path. Make me worthy of your love, and teach me how to forgive as you forgave.

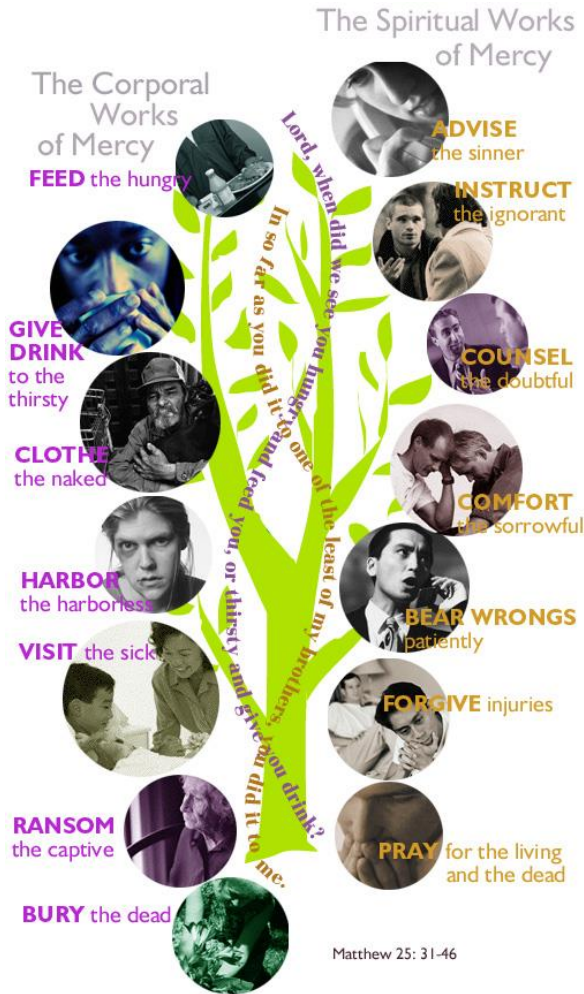
Thank you for your tender mercies. I ask you to bless my family, friends and those who I meet in my comings and goings. Where there is joy, give them continued joy. Where there is pain or sorrow, give them your peace and mercy. Where there is self-doubt, release in them a renewed confidence. Fill their every need with your Holy Grace.

You are indeed my Lord, God and Savior. Amen

Dear Jesus, let me become a more Forgiving Man – toward others and my self—so that I may experience healing, peace, and renewal, and be a Blessing to others. Amen.



12/8/2015 – 11/20/2016



The Corporal Works of Mercy

1. To feed the hungry.
2. To give drink to the thirsty.
3. To clothe the naked.
4. To harbor the harborless.
5. To visit the sick.
6. To ransom the captive.
7. To bury the dead.

The Spiritual Works of Mercy

1. To instruct the ignorant.
2. To counsel the doubtful.
3. To admonish sinners.
4. To bear wrongs patiently.
5. To forgive offences willingly.
6. To comfort the afflicted.
7. To pray for the living and the dead



The Pentecost Vigil 2016

Celtic Christians had an interesting term for the Holy Spirit. They called it “Ah Geadh-Glas”, or the wild goose. They were on to something for the Holy Spirit is something that cannot be tracked or tamed.

www.thewildgooseisloose.com

