



# THE JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

*During which we are Highlighting the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy*

## Mercy for the Month of February

### VISIT THE SICK

Each month during the Year of Mercy we will highlight one or two of the Corporal or Spiritual Works of Mercy. We receive so many blessings from the Lord, the outpouring of His mercy and love. We share that mercy and love with others in corporal, or material ways, as well as in spiritual ways. In 1993, St. John Paul II inaugurated the first World Day of the Sick on February 11th. He chose this day because it was the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, a patroness many who are sick turn to for intercession for healing and succor. Those who are ill are joined in a special way by their sufferings to Christ in His Passion. And it is important that we help and support them in the midst of their trial; that we aid and accompany them, that their faith may not fail. There is no greater way to do this than to visit them - to be with them. Jesus cried out from the cross, "Why have you abandoned me?" When we visit the sick, we help them to remember that they are loved, that they are not alone. When we visit the sick, we extend our love to others in a tangible way. These are our brothers and sisters—and Jesus Christ invites us to share with them from the mercies that we have received.

#### MERCY IN ACTION

There are countless ways that in your own life, through our parish ministries or in our local community you can Visit the Sick. We have individuals who serve as **Homebound Ministers**, visiting those who are sick or those unable to come to Mass and taking them the Eucharist. The Eucharist is a great gift, but so too is the personal visit. We have a **Medical Closet** with supplies that individuals donate to help those in time of need. Our **Shoulder to Shoulder Ministry** has a list of those who are willing to cook a meal for those have a difficult time after a surgery, a death, the birth of a child or just a time of need. Each and every **First Saturday Mass** we pray for those who are sick and anoint those who are gravely ill or advanced in years. Come and pray for these, or think of those in your own life who are sick, who cant leave home as often as they would like — and visit them. Volunteer at or stop by a nursing home or an assisted living facility just to visit and say hello, to help with games or activities, to get to know your brothers and sisters there. While we often think of physical illness, it is important too to remember sickness of the soul—spiritual illness. Who is spiritually ill that you can visit and comfort? How are you Merciful like the Father?

#### PATRON SAINT OF THE MONTH:

##### ST. ROSE OF LIMA

Isabel was born in 1586, and her beauty was remarked by so many that she scarred her own face with lye in order to detract her suitors. She took the name of Rose as her Confirmation name, retaining a far deeper and greater beauty. She had one love in her life, and espoused herself to Him: Jesus Christ. She became a Third Order Dominican—not entering a convent, but living in the world. Her family resisted all of this, and tried to dissuade her. Her life was one of many penances. She also took time to visit the sick and care for them. Toward the end of her short 31 years, she lived for a few years in a government official's house, and there set up a room to which she brought and cared for orphans, the elderly and those who were sick.

"Apart from the Cross there is no other ladder by which we may get to heaven."

