



CELEBRATING THE YEAR OF MERCY

PRAYING THE CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY

SHELTER THE HOMELESS

OPENING PRAYER

O Lord, to whom no one is a stranger
and from whose help no one is ever distant,
look with compassion on those without a place to live;
restore them, we pray, to a home of their own,
and give us a kind heart to help the homeless in their need.
We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

READ LUKE 16:19-31

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 68:5, 6-7, 8-9, 10-11, 20

R./ Blessed be the Lord day by day.

Sing to God, praise his name;
exalt the rider of the clouds.
Rejoice before him
whose name is the Lord.

R./

Father of the fatherless, defender of widows—
God in his holy abode,
God gives a home to the forsaken,
he leads prisoners out to prosperity.

R./

God, when you went forth before your people,
when you marched through the desert,
the earth quaked, the heavens poured,
before God, the God of Israel.

R./

You poured abundant rains, God,
your inheritance was weak and you repaired it.
Your creatures dwelt in it;
you will establish it in your goodness for the poor, O God.

Time for reflection/discussion

INTERCESSIONS

That all governments work tirelessly to provide food, clothing
and housing to all who need them, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

That every local community supports policies and actions to
end homelessness in their districts, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

That people living in the same neighborhood practice healthy
living habits for the good of their community and common areas,
we pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

That we are always good stewards in the use and preserva-
tion of our common home, the earth, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

That houses of worship remain sanctuaries where people
may find rest and peace, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Our Father...

CLOSING PRAYER

Pope Francis' Prayer for the Jubilee Year of Mercy (excerpt)

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us to be merciful like the heav-
enly Father, and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him. You
are the visible face of the invisible Father, of the God who mani-
fests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy: Let the Church
be your visible face in the world. Send your Spirit and consecrate
every one of us with its anointing, so that the Jubilee of Mercy may
be a year of grace from the Lord, and your Church, with renewed
enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to
captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind. We ask
this of you, Lord Jesus, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one
God for ever and ever. Amen

REFLECTION BY CLARE KUSHMA

Catholic Charities Diocese of Pittsburgh

Bob Carter lived on the streets of Pittsburgh: homeless, jobless, and “family-less;” hopeless could also describe his former existence.

He recalls sitting in a church on Palm Sunday 2014. Bishop David Zubik was celebrating Mass and gave a homily that “stirred up something” in Bob. He wanted to meet the Bishop afterward to ask for his blessing. But he didn’t. “I was filthy; I smelled bad. You don’t understand how you can’t do things when you can’t even get to a bathroom to clean up.”

A few months later he did meet the Bishop, but not before Brian Tarquinio, a Catholic Charities volunteer, came into his life. Early one morning Brian sat with Bob on a bench, downtown. “He told me that he had been watching me for awhile and asked what I needed. I told him, ‘I need a job.’”

Immediately, Brian gave Bob some money and something to eat; took him for a haircut and a shave; and invited him to his office where he phoned local restaurants who might benefit from

Bob’s cooking skills. Brian then went home to get clean clothes for Bob, and when he returned, the two went shopping for a pre-paid phone, toiletries and underwear.

Within a day, Bob went from jobless to employed. A couple of weeks later, he went from homeless to having a room of his own at St. Joseph House of Hospitality, all because of his new friend and guardian angel, Brian. “When I look into his face, I see the face of Christ. In his eyes, I see the heart of Christ,” said a grateful Bob.

Now Bob wants to help others as he was helped. He’s already started by sharing his story and by increasing awareness about homelessness. When he was invited to speak at St. Paul Seminary, Bob came face-to-face with the person whom he identifies as the spark to his new life. “I was waiting to talk when Bishop Zubik walked into the room. I totally lost control of my emotions.” Bob then explained to the Bishop and the group what happened on that Palm Sunday in 2014.

“As I left the meeting, the Bishop followed me into the hallway. He said, ‘Don’t you ever hesitate to speak to me, anytime, anywhere.’ And then he gave me a big hug!”

SPIRITUAL WORK OF MERCY

To “Comfort the afflicted” means entering into the realm of suffering of another person so that the person is not alone. Being with the afflicted person reminds him or her that the affliction, however terrible, does not exhaust the person’s identity. A remedy for the affliction may or may not be available, but the loving presence of a neighbor is always a possibility.

QUOTE OF MERCY

“We can find no social or moral justification, no justification whatsoever, for lack of housing.” **–Pope Francis**



Working to Reduce Poverty in America.

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