

Cycle A Our Lord Jesus Christ King of the Universe
Sunday November 26th, 2017

The opening prayer for this solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ King of the Universe reminds us of the necessity of service as we prayed, **“Almighty and ever-living God, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the King of the universe, grant we pray, that the whole creation, set free from slavery, may render your majesty service and ceaselessly proclaim your praise.”**

This prayer reminds us that we are to render service to the majesty of Jesus Christ our King. The words of Jesus that we just heard from Matthew’s Gospel; teach us how we are to render service to the majesty of Jesus Christ our King. Jesus gave us the corporal works of mercy. We serve the majesty of Jesus by: feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, welcoming the stranger, clothing the naked, caring for the ill, and visiting those in prison.

Many people here at St. Antoninus carry out these works of mercy with great love and dedication. And for this, the Church is grateful for your dedication to serving the majesty of Jesus Christ through others.

Today however, I would like us to consider these works of mercy from a different perspective. We are good at serving others, but are we good at letting others serve us? In September I had right carpal tunnel surgery. Then in October, I had left carpal tunnel surgery and left ulnar nerve surgery.

The first round limited only my ability to lift things. So, I was able to be **stubborn** and do most things. The second round really limited me. People offered assistance, but I said I was fine, with the exception that I could not drive. So, for a week I relied on others to drive me where I needed to be. But, everything else I was **stubborn** about, when actually I really did need some help. But, more important however, is the fact that I denied people the opportunity to minister to the majesty of Jesus by caring for my needs.

Jesus Himself gives us the example of allowing others to minister to His needs. Such as the woman who anointed Jesus at Bethany before His passion and death, or the women who provided for Jesus and the disciples out of their resources.

Here at St. Antoninus we are blessed to have a group of people who are willing and ready to minister to the majesty of Jesus by serving the needs of our parishioners, through the St. Antoninus Network of Care. “The **mission** of the Network of Care is to provide services to St. Antoninus parishioners in need of assistance. We are called to be witnesses to Jesus by following His example of love and service. Together, we can make our parish a more dynamic and caring community by engaging in the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.”

The network of care provides meals for those just home from the hospital, or after the birth of a child, or after the death of a loved one. The NOC also has a transportation ministry, a prayer ministry, because we all need prayers, and the listening ear ministry when we need someone to listen to us without judgment and with the confidence of confidentiality. The Network of Care has a number of other ministries to serve the majesty of Jesus through our parishioners. Did you know that you can contact the NOC through our parish phone number? Just dial the parish phone number and press number 8. Leave a message and your call will be returned promptly.

The opening prayer and the Gospel Reading today remind us of the need to render service to the majesty of Jesus in others. The St. Antoninus Network of Care is a beautiful way to allow the majesty of Jesus present in each one of us, to be served.