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Project Hope Essay

Act of Patience

By acting out works of mercy, our relationship with God is strengthened and we are brought closer to our faith. When we follow Jesus' example of compassion, forgiveness, and generosity, not only are we doing good for others, but we grow ourselves. As we travel on our journey of faith, there are many things that bring us closer to God, although some mean more than other. The acts of mercy are a personal way that we connect to God in many while also developing ourselves and others.

The Extraordinary Holy Year of Mercy calls us to think about how we can authentically live a life of mercy. There's plenty of ways to live a merciful life, just one being the act of patience. It requires compassion and the ability to see past your own desires. At times this can be very difficult, especially when we all have our own struggles in life. However, that is what makes patience such a virtue and so merciful. The reward we receive by growing in our faith is what gives us the strength to live out.

“Better a patient person than a warrior, one with self-control than one who takes a city” (Proverbs 16:32). We are called by God to live mercifully and by answering this call our relationship with him is made stronger. When others are patient, it is clear the work it takes. For most, it doesn't come naturally. It can be extremely difficult to be understanding with others, when you have already had a challenging day. The striving to live as we are called is really what brings us closer to our faith. It's the effort we put in that counts. God understands that as humans we are not perfect, we are flawed by sin. He doesn't expect us to live a perfect life,

that's why he gave us the gift of reconciliation. All he asks is that we honestly try, and when we do we are rewarded in a much greater way.

Personally, my journey to be more patient with others has not been easy. I know how I am called to live, and what I need to do, but it is still hard. In my struggle though, asking for God's help is what keeps me on the right path. It is hard to remember what to do for others, when you have so much to do yourself, but we are asked to put them before ourselves. "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love." (Ephesians 4:2). All throughout the Bible, we are told how to live. By striving for mercy, we are answering God's call and growing closer to him.

The most important thing to remember in our efforts to live this life of mercy is that you are going to make mistakes. You may let it slip your mind and forget about it. You may just fail to make the right decision. It is all part of the journey. In the end, whatever you do, if you are attempting to live out the acts of mercy, you are growing closer to God. The end goal is to strengthen your faith and relationship with the Lord, and you don't have to be perfect to do so.