

WHATEVER YOU DO TO THE LEAST OF MY PEOPLE



Long-time Friend and former Parish Nurse of St. Leo, Sister Phyllis Kemper, OSU, Congregational Leader of the Ursulines of Brown County, wrote a compelling reflection incorporating her own adaptation on a treasured scripture passage, Matthew 25. Additions continued to come into focus for her as she contemplated her reflection. Since it was presented, many have contacted Sr. Phyllis with their own personal inclusions. Our stories are all different, so consider how your own “Matthew 25” might read.

Here is an excerpt from her original reflection:

You who are blessed by my Father,
inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the beginning of the world.
When I was a single mother, you gave me a job with a living wage and health care benefits;
When I was born to an addicted mother, you cuddled me in the NICU;
When I dropped out of school, you encouraged me to get my GED;
When I was growing up and needed a role model, you mentored me;
When I struggled in school you tutored me;
When I lived in substandard housing, you advocated for me;
When I was mentally ill, you befriended me;
When I was hungry, you volunteered at the parish soup kitchen/food pantry;
When I was elderly and alone, you visited me;
When I experienced injustice, you cried out against it;
When I was fleeing violence and wanted to make a better life for my family, you spoke for me;
When I made a mistake, no matter how big, you gave me a second chance;
When my resources were to be affected by budget cuts, you advocated for me,
When I returned from prison, you hired me;
When I walked down the street, you smiled and greeted me;
When I was down and out, you remembered that I am a child of God;
When I died, you remembered me...

For whatever you do to the least of my people that you do unto ME.