

Field Hospital

A friend of mine was having a conversation with a man, let's call him Mike, who didn't have much good to say about our the Catholic faith much less about any Christian religion. Now my friend didn't want to sound too religious because he knew Mike would walk away, leaving my friend no chance to bring him back to the church. So, in the middle of their conversation, my friend said, "Mike, do you know where sinners go?" "That's easy," he replied, "You're going to tell me they go to hell." "No," my friend replied. "They go to church!"

Mike was speechless. That answer wasn't what he expected. He wasn't ready to hear from a Catholic who realized he wasn't perfect and needed continual forgiveness and mercy. My friend went on and explained grace; **grace** is a favor, the free and undeserved help that God gives us to respond to his call to become children of God, and become part of God's divine nature and be with Him for eternal life".

Perhaps you and I don't give those outside the church a clear picture of what is happening inside our church. They may not understand that we're there to praise God as a community and worship our Savior who died on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins. As Pope Francis said, "Our church is a Field Hospital for sinners, not a club for saints!" Yes all who go to church are sinners, forgiven ones, by the grace of God, go to heaven. May we always greet our fellow sinners, with grace!

together through prayer and service,

Deacon Mike