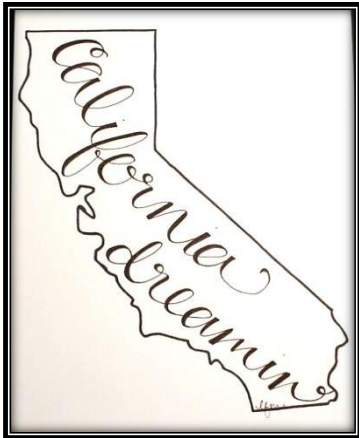




## GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY



What do you do when “all the leaves are brown, and the sky is gray”? Well many people might (like the *Mamas and Papas*) begin *California dreamin’* on such a winter’s day, the clergy can help with “winter depression” by proclaiming the “good news of great joy that will be for all the people” (Saint Luke II:10); the *good news of great joy* that shepherds went in haste to find lying in a manger; the *good news of great joy* that amazed everyone who heard it proclaimed by the shepherds; the *good news of great joy* that Magi from the east searched for diligently until the star they were following stopped over the place where the Child was; the *good news of great joy* that inspired these same wise men to open their treasures and offer Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Yes, it is this *good news of great joy* that helped with “winter depression” on a cold winter’s night that was so deep two thousand years ago, and it is this *good news of great joy* that can help with “winter depression” today!

Surely we’re told in the Letter to the Hebrews that the *good news of great joy* did not help angels but rather the descendants of Abraham. As a matter of fact, it was the Angel of the Lord who first proclaimed this *good news of great joy* to the Shepherds, to Mary, and to Saint Joseph. And with each proclamation the Angel of the Lord began with the words: “be not afraid”.

Therefore, I say to my fellow Clergy-members, with the words of the Angel of the Lord: “be not afraid” to be a friend to those who are suffering and encourage them by proclaiming this *good news of great joy* because it is (as the Angel of the Lord declared) for all the people. It is this Babe born of Mary, *Himself tested through what He suffered, Who is able to help those who are being tested* (cf. Hebrews II:16-18); even with “winter depression”.

And to those of you who are suffering from “winter depression” I say, with help from *James Taylor*: “winter, spring, summer, or fall, all you gotta do is call and (your clergy) will be there yes (we) will! You’ve gotta friend.”



### IF YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO...

... needs Confession, a ride to Mass or the Doctor’s office, or help raking leaves, shoveling snow, finding a plumber, an electrician, or a roofer, ... then please give Mercy Mission a call and let us know.



AND

**If you can help** homebound parishioners get to Mass, a weekday Doctor’s appointment, or the grocery store.

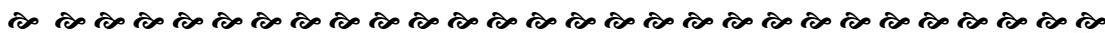
**If you can help** the homebound with raking leaves, shoveling snow, and performing light housework.

**If you can help** the homebound find a good plumber, an electrician, a roofer, etc.

### Then We Need Your Help!!!

Please call **Mercy Mission at (516) 992-2225** and leave your name and phone number.

We will get back to you as soon as possible. Thank you!



**“CAN YOU HELP OTHERS RAKE THE LEAVES AND SHOVEL THE SNOW?”**

