

Works of Mercy Project

“It is to you young people that the task first falls of bearing witness to the Faith and bringing into the third millennium the Gospel of Christ, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.” - St. John Paul the Great

As you prepare for Confirmation, it is vital that you understand the need for serving your fellow man, as well as your brothers and sisters in faith. The Works of Mercy are powerful ways to serve all people.

“The *works of mercy* are charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbor in his spiritual and bodily necessities. Instructing, advising, consoling, comforting are spiritual works of mercy, as are forgiving and bearing wrongs patiently. The corporal works of mercy consist especially in feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned, and burying the dead.” (CCC 2447)

“Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me... Then the righteous will answer him ‘Lord, when did we see thee hungry and feed thee, or thirsty and give thee drink? And when did we see thee a stranger and welcome thee, or naked and clothe thee? And when did we see thee sick...and visit thee?’ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.’” (Matthew 25:34-40)

Corporal Works of Mercy

1. *Feed the hungry*
2. *Give drink to the thirsty*
3. *Clothe the naked*
4. *Visit the sick*
5. *Shelter the homeless*
6. *Visit the imprisoned*
7. *Bury the dead*

Spiritual Works of Mercy

1. *Admonish the sinner*
2. *Instruct the ignorant*
3. *Counsel the doubtful*
4. *Comfort the sorrowing*
5. *Bear wrongs patiently*
6. *Forgive all injuries*
7. *Pray for the living and the dead*

You are to perform tasks relating to the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.

You must perform a total of 6 separate tasks relating to 3 different Corporal Works and 3 different Spiritual Works. Each task should take about an hour of your time, cumulatively. (i.e. 1 hour - one day, 30 minutes - two days, 15 minutes - four days, etc). Write a brief summary of each Work you perform. The summary should describe the work you did and how it aided your understanding of the Faith.

Please Note: You may only use tasks you have performed since the start of middle school for this requirement. Tasks done prior to middle school may not be used.

** Please refer to the Reference Page on the back of this sheet for suggestions on different works, as well as the sample sheet attached which shows what a full report on the different works should look like. **

Reference Page for Works of Mercy Project

The activities listed on this page are *suggestions*. You are **not** limited to these activities alone for your different works. Be creative.

Corporal Works

Feed the Hungry: - Participate in a Food Drive (i.e. collect canned goods)
Give Drink to the Thirsty:- Work in a Soup Kitchen (w/ Parental assistance)

Clothe the Naked: - Do a Clothing Drive; Coat Collection

Visit the Sick: - Visit a Nursing Home
- Help out a sick person in your family or neighborhood

Shelter the Homeless: - Participate in a Blanket Drive
- Participate in a Walk for the Homeless

Visit the Imprisoned: - Collect Paperback Books to donate to a Jail Library

Bury the Dead: - Visit a Cemetery & pray for the departed souls
- Assist with a bereavement Luncheon
- Attend a Funeral

Spiritual Works

Admonish the Sinner: - Gently correct someone who is misguided

Instruct the Ignorant: - Assist in a CCD class for the school year
- Help a younger sibling with homework
- Help a younger sibling learn prayers

Counsel the Doubtful: - Lend encouragement to someone who is feeling down

Comfort the Sorrowing: - Make a card for someone who is ill or has lost a loved one

Bear wrongs Patiently: - Discuss an occasion where you “turned the other cheek”

Forgive all Injuries: - Make peace with those you struggle with

Pray for the Living
And the Dead: - Pray regularly as a family
- Offer prayers for the souls in Purgatory
- Attend a Holy Hour

Works of Mercy Project – Sample Sheet

Your Works of Mercy Project must consist of activities relating to both the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. Below is a sample of what a full report on the different Works of Mercy you perform might look like. A summary like this would be acceptable for the completion of your Works of Mercy Project.

Corporal Works

1. **Feed the Hungry** – I helped with the Lenten Soup Supper at St. Theresa’s on a Friday during Lent. I helped prepare bread on plates for people to eat. I also helped stir and serve soup to people. This activity helped me understand what it is like to serve others. The people who prepare these suppers put a lot of effort into it. They do this during Lent to remind us of Jesus, when he fasted 40 days in the desert. The small sacrifice of not eating meat on Fridays during Lent reminds us of the Jesus sacrifice on the cross.

2. **Visit the Sick** – I did two things relating to this. First, my family visited my Grandparents in West Virginia. My grandma always tells us what is wrong with her. We listen to her and try to cheer her up. We have to move a little slower with my grandpa because he is blind in one eye and his other is going bad. I take time to listen to both of them. Second, my mom and I went to Loudoun Hospital Center once. We visited some children there. We brought pinwheels for them to play with. Some of the children have trouble with their lungs, and blowing on the pinwheels helps strengthen them. Its also fun too. Doing this helped me understand Jesus better, because out of love, He visited those who were sick too.

3. **Bury the dead** – On Christmas Eve, we visited the graves of my grandparents in Maryland. It was a very emotional event for my dad. He cried because they were his parents. When it was time to go, we had to help him walk away from their graves. While we were there we said prayers for them. After we left, I helped comfort my dad. This helped me understand how much you can really care about another person, even after they have died. Also, it shows how you can still keep in touch with them through prayer.

Spiritual Works

1. **Instruct the ignorant** – I helped my little brother with his CCD homework for a couple of weeks. He needed help learning some of his prayers, as well as learning about some of the things that Jesus taught. Doing this helped me see how God helps people know about Him by working through the people who already know and follow him. It’s a good feeling to know that God is working through me in order to make good things happen.

2. **Comfort the sorrowing** – I did two things relating to this. First, I found out my grandpa was sick and that he had to have tests at the hospital. I made a get-well card for him and decorated it myself. He called me to say that he had received it and that he appreciated it. Second, in school I have spent a few weeks talking and listening to another student whose friend had accidentally been killed by a gun. Both these activities helped me understand why it is important to be thankful for our blessings and to thank God everyday for them because we do not know when bad things will happen to us.

3. **Pray for the Living and the Dead** – I went to a holy hour at St. Theresa’s. We prayed for people who needed guidance and knowledge, like the people in government and our teachers, and we also prayed for the souls in Purgatory to help ease their suffering. This helped me see the value and need for prayer in our daily lives, because it not only helps us love other people better, it also helps us grow closer to God.