

Confirmation Service / Works of Mercy Project

Candidates will choose 3 Corporal Works of Mercy and 3 Spiritual Works of Mercy. Candidates will document, in diary form, how and when the selected works of mercy were employed. This “journal of mercy” is to be updated on a weekly basis. Below are examples of ways you can serve your communities via the Works of Mercy.

Corporal Works of Mercy – They can be broken down into three subcategories; Give, Shelter, Spend Time. These three categories can help u understand them more effectively. This way we can look at how we enact each in the world and our homes.

Give

1. Feed the Hungry – “For I was hungry and you gave me food.” -Matthew 25:35

Go Out: Serve at a soup kitchen, organize a food drive, keep wrapped food items in your car to pass out to hungry people you encounter, volunteer at a food pantry like East Cooper Community Outreach (ECCO – eccocharleston.org).

At Home: Make lunch, dinner, or dessert for someone in need such as an elderly neighbor or relative, skip second helping so that someone else can have it

2. Give Drink to the Thirsty – “I was thirsty and you gave me drink.” – Matthew 25:35

Go Out: Organize a bottled water drive, keep a case of water bottles in your care to give to thirsty people you encounter. Research organization that help people who do not have clean water to drink and find out how you can help (Water Mission – watermission.org)

At Home: Ask others if you can get them something to drink, especially guests, friends, mail carrier, trash and recycling workers, contractors working on the street. Make a concerted effort not to waste water at home

Shelter

3. Clothe the Naked – “(I was) naked and you clothed me.” – Matthew 25:36

Go Out: Donate clothing or hygiene items to your local shelter, offer to take old items from you school’s lost and found to charity

At Home: Share you clothes with your siblings, choose not to by new clothes, instead donate that mone to a women’s or men’s shelter

4. Shelter the Homeless – “(I was) a stranger and you welcomed me.” – Matthew 25:35

Go Out: Assist a charity or organization like Habitat for Humanity in building or maintaining housing for those in need, serve at a homeless shelter. Collect blankets/coats for children that live in shelters, donate money to the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

At Home: Welcome all guests, including the guests of your family members, help elderly neighbors with yard work or housework.

Spend Time

5. Visit the Imprisoned – “(I Was) in prison and you visited me.” – Matthew 25:36

Go Out: Serve with your parishes’ prison ministry, help supply those who visit prisons with devotional items like rosaries or religious books. Make cards or write letters of encouragement and hope for those that are incarcerated.

At Home: Sit with someone at school who is socially isolated, befriend someone who has been judged or out cast for past actions. Spend time with a sibling or family member who is going through a hard time, is grounded, punished, or ignored.

6. Visit the Sick – “(I was) ill and you cared for me” – Matthew 25:36

Go Out: Volunteer at a hospital or nursing home if conditions of COVID allow. Send games, cards and books to a nursing home.

At Home: Visit and make a meal for friends and family who are sick, spend time with friends and family who struggle with depression or another mental or physical illness.

7. Bury the Dead – “I performed many charitable works for my kinsmen and my people...if I saw one of my people who had died and been thrown outside the walls of Nineveh, I would bury him.” – Tobit 1:16

Go Out: Attend or volunteer as an altar server or musician at a funeral at your parish, assist financially with funeral costs of those in your community, write condolence cards for families of the deceased at your parish, visit a cemetery and pray for the eternal rest of the souls of those buried there.

At Home: Help your family make food for a wake, spend time with widowed grandparents or family members and friends who have lost someone and are grieving.

The Spiritual Works of Mercy - They can be broken down into three subcategories: speak, listen, and interior. These three categories can help us understand them more effectively. We can look at how to enact each in the world and in our home.

Speak

1. Instruct the Ignorant – “In wisdom made perfect, instruct and admonish one another.” – Colossians 3:16

Go Out: Share the Gospel at school, in your confirmation class, or reconciliation workshop, learn how to articulate the teachings of the church

At Home: Share what you learn about your faith with your family and friends.

2. Counsel the Doubtful – “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and God of all encouragement, who encourages us in our every affliction, so that we may be able to encourage those who are in any affliction with the encouragement with which we ourselves are encouraged by God.” – 2 Corinthians 1:3

Go Out: Be a source of encouragement on social media, on your sports teams and at school

At Home: Schedule a time to talk with a friend who is struggling. Equip yourself with a better knowledge of sacred scripture that you can reference to encourage others.

3. Admonish Sinners – “Brothers, even if a person is caught in some transgression, you who are spiritual should correct that on in a gentle spirit.” – Galatians 6:1

To admonish is to firmly warn or reprimand someone. This must be done with great love and concern for the individual. The proper goal is to lead them to repentance, not to condemn or judge the person

Go Out: Support organizations that promote and support the dignity of human life.

At Home: Speak up when your peers, family and friends talk about behaviors and actions that you know are wrong. Encourage alternate paths of action that do not compromise your beliefs.

Listen

4. Bear Wrongs Patiently – “Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me” – Matthew 6:14

Go Out: Be persistent in speaking about and living your faith publicly, even if you know there will be backlash.

At Home: Endure insult and accusations with humility. Chose to refrain from defensive and aggressive responses.

5. Comfort the Afflicted – “Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.” – Romans 12:15

Go Out: Pray for areas of strife and conflict in the world, especially among Christians. Encourage other to join you. Devote a weekly rosary or novena to this cause.

At Home: Be present to those struggling, especially with loss, rejection, and illness. Bring peace to those in need and pray with them.

Interior

6. Forgive Wrongs Willingly – “Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.” – Matthew 6:12

Go Out: Pray for those involved with corrupt organizations

At Home: Forgive those who have wronged you, including those who have not asked for forgiveness. Be sure to express this forgiveness in prayer to God.

7. Pray for the Living and the Dead – “Thus he made atonement for the dead that they might be freed from this sin.” – 2 Maccabees 12:46

Go Out: Pray for all people, especially those who may not have anyone else to pray for them. Remember those who have died, whether or not you knew them, and ask for God’s mercy on their souls that they may enjoy the beaty of Heaven, pray for all the souls in Purgatory.

At Home: Pray for the living and dead family members, friends. Also so pray for those that are hardest to love.