

## *Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy and Service Hours*

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Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy and Service Hours are highly recommended, but never required. The Sacrament of Confirmation is freely given as a gift from our Church instituted by Jesus Christ. The Sacraments are never earned. We feel that as our students grow in their love for Christ their natural reaction will be to desire to be one of his disciples and to go out and serve the world.

The works of mercy are charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbor in his spiritual and bodily necessities.

(CCC 2447) The corporal works of mercy include feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, Sheltering the homeless, and visiting the sick and imprisoned.

Some examples of Corporal Works of Mercy and Spiritual Works of Mercy are on the back...

***Why service? "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?" And, the King will say to them in reply, "Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25: 37-40***

Suggestions for Spiritual Works of Mercy

Pray at a Catholic cemetery for the deceased, Pray outside an abortion clinic for mothers, fathers, and unborn children Pray outside a prison for those imprisoned, their families, and those victimized by the crimes committed, Volunteer to serve on a parish team to provide pastoral care to those who are grieving, Make rosaries for children, the poor, or soldiers, Collectively resolve to fast for a specific intention Donate a Bible, Catechism, or subscription to a Catholic periodical to a poor family, Donate a Bible, Catechism, or subscription to a Catholic periodical to a prisoner or the person's family, Collectively purchase sets of books, movies, or music for local libraries to help people learn about the Catholic faith, Collectively purchase books or other resources on the faith that the parish could not otherwise afford, Collectively fund some form of evangelization outreach that the parish could not otherwise afford, Collectively fund good Catholic resources to give away for various situations (e.g., wedding, new baby, grieving), Solicit general prayer requests, and pray for them Solicit names of the sick, and pray for them; send get well cards or spiritual bouquets, Solicit names of deceased individuals, and pray for them Solicit names of men and women serving in the military, and pray for them and their families, Solicit intentions for the clergy, seminarians, and postulants, and pray for them, Solicit intentions for the poor, and pray for them, Solicit intentions for the persecuted Church, and pray for them, Solicit intentions for enemies and those persecuting the Church, and pray for them, Solicit intentions for those struggling with addictions, past abortions, abusive relationships, and pray for them, Solicit intentions for the unity of Christians and of all people of good will, and pray for them, Write letters to military men and women who are deployed, or their spouses left behind.

Please see the back of the form for more ideas >>>

## Suggestions for Corporal Works of Mercy

Help at a soup kitchen, Help at home or facility for the elderly, Help at a construction site for a charity housing project, Help a charity center sort clothing and other donated items, Help deliver holiday meals, gifts, or other items resulting from a parish collection effort, Visit a home-bound or sick person Arrange to drive home-bound individuals to Mass, shopping, or medical appointments, Clean house for a home-bound person, Clean the parish church, put flowers at the altar or in other appropriate places, Clean and remove weeds from some portion of a Catholic cemetery, Collect items for the poor or for victims of a recent disaster, Collect items for layettes for newborns, or donate a layette to a crisis pregnancy center, Hold a bake sale to raise money for certain causes, Collectively sponsor a poor child in another country, Collectively sponsor a poor child to attend a Catholic school, or pay for books or uniforms, Collectively sponsor a person who needs medical care beyond their means, Collectively purchase a First Communion suit or dress for a poor child, Collectively purchase a larger item of need for a poor family (e.g., kitchen appliance, car repair, baby furniture) Collectively purchase a major item for a crisis pregnancy center (e.g., sonogram machine, computer, furniture) Collectively purchase a gravesite for a family in mourning unable to afford a burial, Collectively provide a week of meals for a family in mourning, Collectively provide rent for someone threatened with eviction, Collectively provide a holiday meal or Christmas gifts for a poor family, Collectively provide a Christmas tree and all decorations for a poor family.