

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

Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy are highly recommended ways to serve and grow in your relationship with God. There are no Service Hours required in our Confirmation Program. The Sacrament of Confirmation is freely given as a gift from our Church instituted by Jesus Christ. The Sacraments are never earned. As our students grow in their love for Christ their natural reaction will be the desire to be one of his disciples and to go out and serve the world, to see the face of Jesus Christ in the most distressing disguises.

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. Among all these, giving alms to the poor is one of the chief witnesses to fraternal charity: it is also a work of justice pleasing to God: He who has two coats, let him share with him who has none and he who has food must do likewise. But give for alms those things which are within; and behold, everything is clean for you. If a brother or sister is ill-clad and in lack of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what does it profit? CCC 2447

***"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

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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.

### **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.