

Confirmation Service: Works of Mercy

As you prepare for Confirmation, it is vital that you understand that being a Catholic means living out the call to serve others. The Works of Mercy are powerful ways to serve all people.

What are the Works of Mercy?

“The works of mercy are charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbor in his/her 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 you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick and visit you?

And the King will answer them, Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of my brothers and sisters, you did it to me.” (Mt 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

The Service Project

Your service will relate to the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy

- Pick 8 separate Works (4 from the Corporal Works and 4 from the Spiritual Works)
- You must give an hour of your time to that work, but you can spread this out i.e. do the task for 15 minutes/4 days a week=one hour. You will have a total of 8 hours.
- Write a brief summary of each Work you performed. The summary should describe the work you did and how it helped you understand your faith. You must provide verification that you spent at least one hour on each work.