



DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

ROOTED IN CHRIST

LENT 2022



MERCY *Monday*

WHATEVER
YOU DID
FOR ONE
OF THESE
LEAST
BROTHERS
OF MINE,
YOU DID
FOR ME

Matthew 25:40



"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? 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 25:35-40

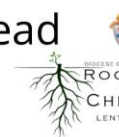
Jesus teaches us the importance of the Corporal Works of Mercy right there in Matthew's Gospel. These seven works are not just suggestions of nice things to do; they are a model for how we should treat others, as if they were Christ in disguise. As we head into Holy Week and prepare to celebrate the Passion of our Lord, let us remember that we are now the hands and feet of Christ on earth. Once our Lenten observances are a thing of the past perhaps we can take on a new challenge and give life to the Corporal Works of Mercy. Below are some great suggestions on how you can Feed the Hungry, Give Drink to the Thirsty, Clothe the Naked, Visit the Imprisoned, Shelter the Homeless, Visit the Sick, and Bury the Dead.

Corporal Works of Mercy



Feed the Hungry
Give Drink to the Thirsty
Clothe the Naked
Visit the Imprisoned

Shelter the Homeless
Visit the Sick
Bury the Dead



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...“It is my burning desire that, during this Jubilee, the Christian people may reflect on the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. It will be a way to reawaken our conscience, too often grown dull in the face of poverty. And let us enter more deeply into the heart of the Gospel where the poor have a special experience of God’s mercy. Jesus introduces us to these works of mercy in his preaching so that we can know whether or not we are living as his disciples. Let us rediscover these corporal works of mercy: to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, welcome the

stranger, heal the sick, visit the imprisoned, and bury the dead. And let us not forget the spiritual works of mercy: to counsel the doubtful, instruct the ignorant, admonish sinners, comfort the afflicted, forgive offences, bear patiently those who do us ill, and pray for the living and the dead.”

Pope Francis, Misericordiae Vultus, 15

Feed the Hungry

- support and volunteer for food pantries, soup kitchens, and agencies that feed the hungry
- educate yourself about world hunger
- avoid wasting food
- share your meals with others

Give Drink to the Thirsty

- Make an effort not to waste water. Remembering to turn off the water faucet when you are brushing your teeth or washing dishes can help, especially in regions suffering from drought.
- Make it a point to go to a city and pass out water, perhaps with little notes or prayers written on the sealed bottles. Offer to pray with people, and remember to pray for them.

Clothe the Naked

- go through your drawers and closets and find good-condition clothes and shoes to donate to agencies that provide assistance for those in need
- participate in programs that provide towels and linens for hospitals in distressed areas
- Volunteer to work at a clothing drive or at a shelter where clothing is distributed to those in need

Visit the Imprisoned

- support and/or participate in ministries to those who are incarcerated
- support programs sponsored by agencies that advocate on behalf of those who are unjustly imprisoned
- support job-training and educational programs designed to rehabilitate prisoners
- pray for the families of inmates
- support efforts that seek the abolition of the death penalty

Shelter the Homeless

- help neighbors care for their homes and do repairs
- support and/or volunteer at a homeless shelter
- advocate for public policies and legislation that provide housing for low-income people
- consider becoming a foster parent.

Visit the Sick

- take the time to call, send a card or an e-mail to someone who is sick
- volunteer to drive patients to medical appointments and treatment facilities
- volunteer at a hospital
- assist those who are full-time caregivers for family members
- cook and delivers meals to the sick and homebound

Bury the Dead

- be faithful about attending wakes/visitation
- support or volunteer at a hospice
- participate in a bereavement ministry
- spend time with widows and widowers
- take friends and relatives to visit the cemetery
- support ministries that offer free Christian burials to those unable to afford one
- send Mass cards to families of those who have died

Suggestions by Joe Paprocki, DMin courtesy of www.slmedia.org



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Diocese of Scranton
2021 **DIOCESAN**
ANNUAL APPEAL 
