



Year of Mercy

Learn, Experience, Share

January 30-31, 2016

The Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy

The Sermon on the Mount found in Matthew 25:31-46 is the bedrock for the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy (Bury the Dead was added). Jesus tells us that whatever you did to the least of these, you did it to Him. As Pope Francis said, "True power is service. The Pope must serve all people, especially the poor, the weak, the vulnerable." If he can do it, so can you!

Learn About and Share Mercy

As the year progresses, we will be focusing on these works of mercy, learning more about what they mean, how we perform them and how that sharing makes us an instrument of God's mercy.

One thing we will learn is that we are already performing many works of mercy. We will be sharing examples of the many works of mercy that are ongoing in our parish, as we look to building on them to make our world more merciful.

Pray: 2 Corinthians 1:3-5

Praised be God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all consolation! He comforts us in all our afflictions and thus enables us to comfort those who are in trouble, with the same consolation we have received from Him. As we have shared much in the sufferings of Christ, so through Christ do we share abundantly in His consolation.

Pope Francis' Prayer for the Year of Mercy

You are the visible face of the invisible Father, of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy:

let the Church be your visible face in the world, its Lord risen and glorified.

(Complete prayer is in pews and on our website at saintspeter-paul.org)

The Corporal Works of Mercy are found in the teachings of Jesus and give us a model for how we should treat all others, as if they were Christ in disguise. They "are charitable actions by which we help our neighbors in their bodily needs" (USCCA). They respond to the basic needs of humanity as we journey together through this life.

The Spiritual Works of Mercy have long been a part of the Christian tradition, appearing in the works of theologians and spiritual writers throughout history. Just as Jesus attended to the spiritual well-being of those he ministered to, these Spiritual Works of Mercy guide us to "help our neighbor in their spiritual needs" (USCCA).

The Corporal Works of Mercy

1. Feed the Hungry
2. Give Drink to the Thirsty
3. Clothe the Naked
4. Welcome the Stranger
5. Visit the Sick
6. Visit the Imprisoned
7. Bury the Dead

The Spiritual Works of Mercy

1. Counsel the Doubtful
2. Instruct the Ignorant
3. Admonish the Sinner
4. Comfort the Afflicted
5. Forgive Offenses Willingly
6. Bear Wrongs Patiently
7. Pray for the Living and the Dead