



Year of Mercy

Learn, Experience, Share

March 12-13, 2016

The Corporal Works of Mercy: Give Drink to the Thirsty

As we look at each work of mercy individually, think about how you are already performing that work. We know that there are many examples ongoing in our parish. Our focus should be to understand how we are sharing God's mercy, think of ways to do it more often and better, and find opportunities to share our experiences to encourage others to join us. If everyone did one more work of mercy each day, how could that change our world!

Although we take clean water for granted in our community, many of our brothers and sisters in Christ do not have access to clean water and suffer from the lack of this basic necessity. We should support the efforts of those working towards greater accessibility of this essential resource. Some ideas:

- Research, identify and contribute financially to organizations that help build wells for water for those in need
- Visit the Catholic Relief Services website at www.crs.org to see how this organization is helping with clean water efforts throughout the world
- Organize a group of children involved on a sports team or a summer camp. Invite them to do a project that helps those in need of clean water.



“The Beating Heart of the Gospel”

Pope Francis writes: “It is absolutely essential for the Church and for the credibility of her message that she herself live and testify to mercy.” Mercy, he says, is “the beating heart of the Gospel” (*Misericordiae Vultus*). To live mercy, we must rediscover both the spiritual works of mercy and the corporal works of mercy.”

The “Other” Thirst

We can also think of giving drink to the thirsty in terms of our spiritual lives.

The Gospel of John relates the story of the Samaritan Woman at the Well. It addresses the thirst we all have.

Jesus said: “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again; but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

We all thirst for this water of eternal life. In Baptism we received this living water. As disciples charged with taking the Good News to all, we should also be aware of our role in sharing this great gift with others.



*Bless the Lord, my soul;
All my being, bless his holy name!
Who pardons all your sins,
And heals all your ills,
Who redeems your life from the pit,
and crowns you with mercy
and compassion. Psalm 103:
2-4*