

St. Patrick of Heatherdowns Works of Mercy Reflections

Works of Mercy are The Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.

They are actions we can perform that extend God's compassion and mercy to those in our everyday lives.

The completion of these Works of Mercy replace what was previously known as "service hours". Students do not log hours or the time spent on each work of mercy due to the nature of what each work may or may not consist of. Someone may spend an hour "Praying For The Living And The Dead" but there is no time table to follow with regard to that specific work of mercy. Thus there not being a need for proof of time served. Living a life of holiness doesn't come down to how many hours someone spends trying to be holy. Living a life of holiness often requires living out such works of mercy to be great instruments of God's peace, regardless of how much time it may or may not require.

Living as a believer in Jesus can mean living the works of mercy. You are to perform each of the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. You are to write a short reflection on each work of mercy performed. Include how the work of mercy revealed in you any of the Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit. For one of the reflections you will choose one that stood out to you the most and on a separate paper write a one, full page, reflection with the same criteria but with deeper detail.

Corporal Works of Mercy

(Use an extra page as necessary)

** ideas for the work of mercy, not the requirement*

The Corporal Works of Mercy are the kind acts by which we help our neighbors with their material and physical needs.

<http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/new-evangelization/jubilee-of-mercy/the-corporal-works-of-mercy.cfm>

| <u>Works of Mercy</u> | <u>Reflection</u> |
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| Feed The Hungry <i>*Sharing food with someone in need, cooking at home wor family, etc.</i> | |
| Give Drink To The Thirsty <i>*When hearing someone is thirsty providing them drink</i> | |
| Shelter The Homeless <i>*Any act of service to the homeless</i> <i>*Handout a "homeless kit"</i> | |
| Visit The Sick | |

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| <p><i>*Visit someone in the hospital, sick at home, hospice, nursing care, etc.</i></p> | |
| <p>Visit The Imprisoned <i>*Write or visit the homebound, hospice, nursing care, etc.</i></p> | |
| <p>Bury The Dead <i>*Attend a funeral *Help clean cemetery</i></p> | |
| <p>Give Alms To The Poor <i>*Donate/help during "feed your neighbor" weekends *Handout a "homeless kit"</i></p> | |

Spiritual Works of Mercy

(Use an extra page as necessary)

** ideas for the work of mercy, not the requirement*

The Spiritual Works of Mercy are acts of compassion, as listed below, by which we help our neighbors with their emotional and spiritual needs.

<http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/new-evangelization/iubilee-of-mercy/the-spiritual-works-of-mercy.cfm>

| <u>Works of Mercy</u> | <u>Reflection</u> |
|--|--------------------------|
| <p>Counseling The Doubtful <i>*Praying with someone who is struggling</i></p> | |
| <p>Instructing The Ignorant <i>*Helping with homework, being patient with little siblings, etc,</i></p> | |
| <p>Admonishing The Sinner <i>*Vocally standing up for what God wants even if it's not cool to do so.</i></p> | |
| <p>Comforting The Sorrowful</p> | |

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| <p><i>*Being present for someone who is hurting. Listening, sympathy gift giving, etc.</i></p> | |
| <p>Forgiving Injuries <i>*Going out of the way to forgive rather than holding a grudge</i></p> | |
| <p>Bearing Wrongs Patiently <i>*When wronged, taking a moment to breath before responding</i></p> | |
| <p>Praying For The Living And The Dead <i>*Set time aside to pray for those struggling and for those who have passed away.</i></p> | |

| Gifts of the Holy Spirit (7) | Fruits of the Holy Spirit (12) |
|---|--|
| <p>Wisdom, Fortitude, Understanding, Knowledge, Counsel, Piety, Fear of the Lord</p> | <p>Charity, Generosity, Joy, Gentleness, Peace, Faithfulness, Patience, Modesty, Kindness, Self-control, Goodness, Chastity</p> |