

Mercy is Compassionate Love in Action!

Our Readings today spell out what Jesus means when He says we must love our neighbor as ourselves.

In our Second Reading, St. Paul tells us that God wants us to "Try our Best to be ... like God." By being Faithful, Loving, Patient, and Gentle.

In the Gospel we heard a story about a man who was not like this and what happened to him. A story of the Rich Man and Lazarus, a name which means "God is my help."

Lazarus represents: the poor, the sick, the unfortunate, the suffering, spiritually hungry, and those in any need who are always around us.

Jesus told this story to remind us that we have Faith and Things that others do not, and to share and to help those who need help. We need to be like Jesus and go out and find someone to help, not wait for them to come asking.

We need to look at the different ways a person could be in need; the older person who is lonely, the girl in our class who has no friends, the boy who struggles with math, the family with someone who is sick; as examples.

This story is really about personal relationships. Giving things is good, but involvement is even better. When we truly look at people and kids, we will see their need.

As we enrich others, we are enriched by them. What we do to and for others, we do To and For God!

The rich man in the Gospel is not condemned for being rich. Instead he is condemned for what he failed to do, what he was supposed to do for his neighbor in need.

What is the parable saying to us? Surely it is asking us to reflect on if we are sufficiently sensitive to the needs of those around us who are suffering in any way.

If we cannot give Mercy to others, How can we expect God to give Mercy to us?

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The 7 Corporal and 7 Spiritual works of Mercy help us to be like God. In this Year of Mercy we have been called to embrace and live them: Here are a few examples that each of us, families and Kids can do:

Corporal Works of Mercy help our neighbors with their material and physical needs:

1. Feed The Hungry.

Examples: Give food to those in need, volunteer at food pantries & soup kitchens, shop for groceries, helping with doing dishes, and waiting on company.

2. Clothe The Naked.

Examples: Sharing outgrown clothes with another family or bringing clothes to a clothing drive, helping a young child get dressed, helping with laundry at home.

3. Visit The Sick.

Helping sick people in any way is an act of love.

Examples: Visit someone in the hospital, nursing home, or at home. Run an errand, call, or send a card.

Spiritual Works of Mercy help our neighbors with their emotional and spiritual needs:

4. Comfort The Afflicted.

It is an act of love to help another person in any kind of sorrow or suffering.

Examples: walk with others through their pain, offer encouragement, offer positive words to fellow students or coworkers, just be present to those who are struggling or in emotional pain.

5. Forgive Offenses Willingly.

It is an act of deep love to forgive all those who have injured us in any way.

Examples: pray for those who have wronged you and pray for the courage to forgive, ask forgiveness from others, have the courage to let someone know they have hurt you.

6. Bear Wrongs Patiently.

Examples: work at being less critical of others; overlook minor flaws and mistakes, give people the benefit of the doubt, pray for them.

Stephen Covey: 10 things vs 1 Mistake.

Please go to our Parish Website, Facebook and Blog for a complete list of the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy with examples.

Remember every word or act done in the name of or for the sake of Jesus is a Work of Mercy, and will be rewarded.

Praise Be Jesus Christ, Now and Forever, Amen.