

WORKS OF MERCY

Living the Jubilee Year of Mercy

During this Jubilee Year of Mercy, Pope Francis asks that we rededicate ourselves to the works of mercy. To assist in this effort, the Archdiocese of Portland has developed a calendar highlighting one or two works of mercy each month. Besides the monthly highlight, we provide opportunities for other works of mercy based on significant events in that month.

Pope Francis tells us that the mission of the corporal and spiritual works of mercy is to "serve, accompany and defend." As you navigate the calendar, you will find brief sections on serving, accompany, defending, and living. Here's a word about each of those aspects:

SERVE: To serve means to welcome people with care. It means to bend down to one in need and to extend your hand, without reservations, without fear, and with the same tenderness and understanding that Jesus demonstrated as He bent down to wash the feet of the Apostles. To serve means to work alongside those most in need.

ACCOMPANY: Hospitality in itself isn't enough. Giving a sandwich to someone who is hungry should open the door to a moment of encounter. Let us heed the call to journey alongside those who are vulnerable and suffering, as they learn to stand on their own two feet.

DEFEND: Serving and accompanying also means taking the side of the weakest - from the poor to the unborn to the unemployed. Living out the works of mercy moves us to lift our voices and prayers on behalf of the voiceless. We can turn to Mary, the Mother of Mercy, who shows us what it means to truly serve, accompany and defend in perfect charity.

LIVE: Serving, accompanying, and defending are meant to change us, and thus our lives. We are also called to reflect on our thoughts, words, and deeds that indirectly harm others. When there is harm, direct or indirect, intentional or unintentional, we are called to change our lives. We can change our lives.



PDXMercy.org/mercy-month-by-month



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