



SERVICE IDEAS

FEED THE HUNGRY

1. Make sandwiches and pass them out to the homeless.
2. Pick up leftovers at a local grocery store, bakery, or restaurant and deliver them to a food bank or homeless shelter.
3. Take a friend out to lunch, your treat.
4. Keep a list of local food banks and soup kitchens on hand to pass out to those you encounter around your town who could use such services.
5. Volunteer at a food bank.
6. Serve at a soup kitchen.
7. Prepare and take a meal to someone in your community who is seriously ill or welcoming home a newborn.
8. Help out at a Knights of Columbus pancake breakfast.
9. Give to or host a food drive.

GIVE DRINK TO THE THIRSTY

1. Pass out water bottles to the homeless.
2. Have a “donations only” lemonade stand and use the proceeds to Improve the Water Supply in Ethiopia via Catholic Relief Services.
3. Pay for the coffee of the person behind you at a coffee shop.
4. Take a cold glass of water (or hot chocolate) to a neighbor doing yard work.
5. Donate baby formula to a local pregnancy help center.
6. Work a drink station at a local charity race.
7. Volunteer to clean at a local animal shelter.

CLOTHE THE NAKED

- 1.** Go through your closet and give away what you don't need.
- 2.** Host a clothing drive and donate the items.
- 3.** Knit, crochet, or sew baby blankets for your local pregnancy help center.
- 4.** Knit, crochet, or sew scarves, hats, and gloves for your local homeless shelter.
- 5.** Score some sweet deals at garage sales and send the items to a foreign mission site.
- 6.** Volunteer at a thrift shop. Help sort and tag donated clothing.

SHELTER THE HOMELESS

1. Volunteer to do manual labor to help in the upkeep of a homeless shelter.
2. Keep a list of local homeless shelters on hand to pass out to those you meet on the street.
3. Send a care package with special treats to an orphanage.
4. Help a family working towards adoption by hosting a fundraiser for them.
5. Sponsor a child through the Christian Foundation for Children and Aging (CFCA).
6. Donate to or volunteer with programs such as Christ in the City to further their efforts in working with the homeless.

VISIT THE SICK

- 1.** Volunteer at a hospital.
- 2.** Volunteer to call Bingo at a nursing home.
- 3.** Send flowers or a card to someone you know who is in the
- 4.** Visit a seriously or terminally ill member of your parish.
- 5.** Sponsor an elderly person through the Catholic Foundation for Children and Aging (CFCA).
- 6.** Send a card to an elderly friend who may feel forgotten.
- 7.** Prepare and deliver a meal for a family with a family member hospitalized.
- 8.** Adopt a parish shut-in and send a monthly card or remembrance to him or her.

VISIT THE IMPRISONED

1. Donate bibles and/or spiritual reading materials to a prison.
2. Contact area detention centers, jails, and prisons and ask for the prison chaplain. Ask if you can serve them in any way. Examples include preparing care kits at the holidays (toothpaste, soap, and deodorant are not provided by prisons), organizing a book drive, preparing rosaries or prayer cards, and donating hymnals for prison liturgies.
3. Offer to assist with Mass or a Bible Study at a local prison.
4. Send a card or letter to someone in prison.. Support or participate in ministries to those incarcerated.
5. Support pro life efforts that seek to abolish the death penalty.

BURY THE DEAD

- 1.** Attend wakes and/or funerals of those you knew.
- 2.** Volunteer with a hospice program.
- 3.** Supply a dish for a funeral luncheon.
- 4.** Help a widow or widower in need with yard work or errands.
- 5.** Visit the cemetery and pray for the dead.
- 6.** Donate to ministries that offer free Catholic burials to those who are unable to afford one.
- 7.** Pray at an abortion clinic for the lives lost to abortion.
- 8.** Attend services for an inmate who was executed.

The material in this booklet was borrowed largely from Lisa Cotter's Article: 50 Corporal Works of Mercy Ideas for Your Summer Bucket List which can be found at <https://focusoncampus.org/content/50-corporal-works-of-mercy-ideas-for-your-summer-bucket-list>