

Dear Parents:

This booklet of the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy is a Discipleship Project for your child(ren). What they have learned in CCE, they can now live out in their everyday lives. Each time your child performs one of the Works of Mercy (throughout Lent or however long it takes), they will check off on a toe. This way, your children will see their progress in the spiritual life as they conform themselves to Christ AND they will be learning to live their faith, which is our ultimate goal.

On the last page of the booklet, there are scriptural references, quotations from our Lord as to how to be His disciple. Hopefully, your child(ren) will get excited about performing these Works of Mercy and will keep at it even after they've completed the Project. They will keep these booklets; they will not return them to us for a grade.

Please help your child(ren) to find ways to live out the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy so that they can follow in Jesus' footsteps and become His disciple.

Ideas for performing the Works of Mercy:

Corporal Works of Mercy

Feed the hungry; give drink to the thirsty – donate to Magdalene House, the Food Bank, or the charity of your choice. This could also include bringing breakfast in bed to Mommy and Daddy or feeding the pets.

Clothe the naked - donate to Magdalene House or the charity of your choice. This could include giving clothes to a relative once your child has outgrown them.

Shelter the homeless – Visit and/or donate to the Star of Hope Mission or Covenant House, which focuses on helping homeless youth. The Covenant House website lists specific areas of concern for homeless youth, so simply accessing this site will raise awareness in your child(ren); you can then, as a family, pray for these specific issues. or access ShelterList.com and type in Humble, Texas to find shelters near you which you can visit or to which you can donate.

Visit the sick; visit those in prison – This could include visiting a sick relative or friend or sending them a card. Praying for the conversion of prisoners, that they repent and believe in the Gospel, is an appropriate way to perform this Work of Mercy.

Bury the dead – This could include attending a funeral, visiting the graveside of a deceased relative or friend, or sending a condolence card to one who is grieving the death of a loved one.

Spiritual Works of Mercy

Admonish sinners; instruct the ignorant; counsel the doubtful – Help your child(ren) to sharing our faith lovingly, for bringing the Good News to all is a mandate from Our Lord. If your child hears someone struggling with negativity, relativism, or despair, they can share the Good News with them; they can help people to see something that our culture, by and large, has forgotten: we are beloved by God. He made us in His Image and Likeness and He loves us. Baptized Christians have a special relationship with God in that we have been adopted into His family as sons and daughters. God loves also the unbaptized, but they do not enjoy the same “seal” or “character” as the baptized, who have been stamped in their souls as children of God.

Bear wrongs patiently; forgive others willingly – These are difficult to do and therefore are very fruitful spiritually. Help your children to trust that God has their backs and will comfort, console, and defend them. God’s work is not always easy to see, but we are called to trust that He knows everything about us, loves us, and has a plan for each life He creates. Keeping our focus on Jesus and on God our Maker helps us to bear wrongs patiently and forgive others willingly by uniting our sufferings to the Cross of Christ. He has suffered everything we suffer; He knows our pain. Once your children take to heart the lessons of the Paschal Mystery, which so graphically shows the immensity of God’s love for us, we can put up with anything.

Comfort the sorrowful – Your child(ren) could look for opportunities to comfort one who is sad, whether that is a parent or grandparent, a friend, or a sibling. The best comfort is the Good News that God loves us and is always Present. He is as near to us as our own heartbeat. Taking your sorrows to the Lord is immeasurably helpful.

Pray for the living and the dead – Help your child(ren) to pray for specific people, especially those who your children don’t like. Praying for the living helps us to choose the loving option, following the Commandment of Jesus: Love One Another. If there are deceased members of your family, pray with your children for those people by name. Your child(ren) can pray for the dead listed in the bulletin each week; they can also pray for the holy souls in Purgatory. My prayer for those in Purgatory is that they will hear the beautiful words Jesus addressed to the Good Thief, Dismas, on the Cross: “Today you will be with Me in Paradise.”

Remember where following these footsteps lead us: to Jesus!

