

WHY SHOULD WE MINISTER?

*Through Works of Mercy, We Invest Our Hearts and Hands.
With Understanding and Compassion, We Serve Others.*

When asked if the primary works of mercy are forever valid, Pope Francis responded with the following: “Let us examine the Seven Corporal Works of Mercy. Feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, dress the naked, house the pilgrims, visit the sick, visit the imprisoned, and bury the dead. I do not think there is much to explain. And if we look at our situation, our society, it seems to me that there is no lack of circumstances all around us” (Pope Francis, *The Name of God Is Mercy*). “The poor you will always have with you,” Jesus told the disciples (St. Mark 14:7). We know of many other hurts and needs God invites us to address, and we even experience them ourselves: hurt, despair, loneliness, sorrow and uncertainty. As “Christ’s ambassadors,” it is our privilege to minister to the body and to the soul.

*Others’ Needs Take Many Forms, Some Not So Obvious.
To Share God’s Mercy, We Consider Every Opportunity.*

Our neighbors’ needs are always significant to them. “It’s possible that in the apartment or house across from yours there is a blind man who would be thrilled if you would go over and read the newspaper to him. It’s possible there is a family that needs something as simple as having someone babysit their child for half an hour. There are so many little things that are so small some people almost forget about them” (St. Mother Teresa, *No Greater Love*). Because we are surrounded by God’s mercy, we remember and we serve.

*Jesus Identified with Those We Serve, and So Should We.
When We Minister to People in Need, We Serve Christ.*

Needy people live in every community, and Jesus taught that, in serving them, we serve him. “I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me. Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me” (St. Matthew 25:35-36, 40). Works of Mercy are acts of grace and compassion, and each one allows us to serve the cause of Christ even as we minister to others.

*Faithful Catholics, We Minister within a Caring Community.
In Our Parish, You’ll Find Many Ways to Serve the Lord.*

God has gifted you to serve, and our parish offers you many opportunities to use your gifts to show God’s mercy to other people—fellow parishioners and your neighbors throughout the community. Your friends in this parish serve you well, and dozens of ministry programs guarantee you meaningful ways to address their needs and extend our voice far beyond this parish property. All you have to do is communicate your availability.

During this Stewardship of Ministry effort, you will receive a Ministry Commitment Card. When you do, please indicate your intent to continue serving, or share your desire to volunteer for the first time. Your parish needs you, and so do all those who will benefit from your ministry on behalf of the Lord Jesus Christ. Join your fellow parishioners, complete your card, and turn it in during our scheduled service.