

Jubilee HOLY YEAR OF MERCY

With My Family: The Corporal Works of Mercy



by Rita Burns Senseman

Our apostolic call is to give witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ. The Corporal Works of Mercy are very practical ways we can share the Good News with our neighbors, family members, friends, and those in need. Review the list, and share in Christ's mission by doing Works of Mercy in the days to come.

Feed people who are hungry

- Call the parish office and ask if your family could take a meal to a homebound parishioner.
- Go grocery shopping for canned goods and take them to your local food pantry.
- Visit your local farmers' market and ask one of the vendors what they do with their food that is "left over."
- Call your local soup kitchen and ask if your family could:
 - Help serve
 - Make sandwiches or desserts for a meal
 - Help set up or clean up
 - Donate milk or fresh produce for a meal
 - Make place mats for the patrons

Clothe people who need clothes

- Volunteer at your local clothes closet.
- Donate your clothes and shoes to your local clothes closet.
- Schools often need clothes and shoes for emergency situations. Contact a local school nurse or health assistant and offer to donate what is needed.

Give drink to the thirsty

- Set up a free lemonade stand in your neighborhood. Give away lemonade, smiles, and the love of Jesus!
- Take a cup of coffee or lemonade to your pastor, coach, youth minister, crossing guard, or someone else who may be thirsty.
- Take a bottle (or a case) of juice, protein drink, or another healthy drink to your local food pantry.

Visit people who are in prison

- Call the parish office and find out if there is a prison ministry in your parish. Ask if you could make a greeting card for a person in prison or for the person's family.
- Contact your local juvenile detention center and ask if you could donate books, games, toiletries, or other items.
- Pray for an end to the death penalty.



8805 Governor's Hill Drive, Suite 400, Cincinnati, Ohio 45249
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Shelter those who are homeless

- Donate new sheets, blankets, or pillows to a local shelter.
- Support Habitat for Humanity, a Christian housing ministry. Visit their Web site, habitat.org, to find out the needs and the opportunities in your area.

Visit people who are sick

- Call the parish office and ask if you could send a greeting card to someone in the parish who is sick or homebound.
- Call a local senior citizen center or nursing home to ask if you could visit with residents who might be lonely. You could visit in the community room and play a game of cards.
- Make a prayer blanket for someone who is sick. Or, donate the prayer blanket to a hospital.

Bury people who have died

- Find out if your parish hosts funeral luncheons. Ask if you can donate a food item.
- Visit the cemetery to pray for someone you know or for a stranger. Bring a flower to leave at the grave.
- Send a card to a widow or widower. Better yet, ask if they would enjoy a visit.

Our Family's Ideas

