

Works of Mercy

Be Merciful as Your Father is Merciful

If we are to receive the Mercy of God, then surely we must ourselves be merciful to others, through our actions, our words, and our prayers; in other words, we must practice the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.

What are the Works of Mercy?

Corporal Works

- • Feed the hungry
- • Give drink to the thirsty
- • Clothe the naked
- • Shelter the homeless
- • Comfort the prisoners
- • Visit the sick
- • Bury the dead

Spiritual Works

- • Teach the ignorant
- • Pray for the living & dead
- • Correct sinners
- • Counsel those in doubt
- • Console the sorrowful
- • Bear wrongs patiently
- • Forgive wrongs willingly

Jesus' Call to Mercy as revealed to St Faustina

"I demand from you deeds of mercy, which are to arise out of love for Me. You are to show mercy to your neighbours always and everywhere. You must not shrink from this or try to excuse or absolve yourself from it.

I am giving you three ways of exercising mercy toward your neighbour: the first — by deed, the second — by word, the third — by prayer. In these three degrees is contained the fullness of mercy, and it is an unquestionable proof of love for Me. By this means a soul glorifies and pays reverence to My mercy.

Many souls ... are often worried because they do not have the material means with which to carry out an act of mercy. Yet spiritual mercy, which requires neither permissions nor storehouses, is much more meritorious and is within the grasp of every soul.

If a soul does not exercise mercy somehow or other, it will not obtain My mercy on the day of judgment. Oh, if only souls knew how to gather eternal treasure for themselves, they would not be judged, for they would forestall My judgment with their mercy" (1317).