

# **Works of Mercy Supplemental Information**

## **Corporal Works of Mercy ideas:**

### **Visit the Sick**

- Visit a nursing home; arrange a Bingo game for the residents or do a puzzle with a resident
- Make cards for parish shut-ins (Mary's Visitors)
- Find an elderly neighbor, offer to mow, rake leaves, weed, take out roll-out trash
- Help out a sick person in your family, neighborhood or school
- Read about Our Lady of Perpetual Help or Our Lady of Lourdes. Share what they have in common with the sick/infirm.
- Contact our parish nurse to find out about any special classes she is teaching and offer to serve refreshments/drinks
- Help serve refreshments at the Knights of Columbus American Red Cross blood drive (Next one is in March)
- Write up petitions for the sick/infirm for a closing prayer at a Confirmation/Faith Formation class.
- Invite a group of friends to watch the movie The Song of Bernadette; Damien, The Leper; Mother Teresa
- Send cards to people you know who are caregivers to elderly/sick relative.

### **Feed the Hungry/Give Drink to the Thirsty**

- Volunteer at a local soup kitchen
- Volunteer to make a meal at the Salvation Army Homeless Shelter during the weeks St. James is assigned
- Do the annual Operation Rice Bowl during Lent
- Contact the local Meals-on-Wheels and see how you can be of assistance.
- Collect cases of bottled water for a Homeless Shelter.
- Contact Fr. Vang from St. James on how you can help bring clean water to Vietnam leper communities.
- Contact Catholic Relief Services to find out what countries are in a drought and how you can help
- Help volunteer with our parish's community garden, Our Father's Feast.
- Volunteer at our Knights of Columbus monthly breakfast (September-May) or help Hospitality with its monthly family dinners (September-May, 4<sup>th</sup> Wed. of the month) or their Fish Fry Fridays during Lent.

### **Clothe the Naked**

- Organize a clothing drive
- Do a coat collection (or hat, scarves, gloves)
- Understand basic human rights. Review the church teaching at the USCCB website. Do people in your community receive what is their right? How can you or a group of friends work to end any ? Look at the flier on the back of this page and learn more at this address: <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catholic-social-teaching/index.cfm>

## **Visit the Imprisoned**

- Do a book collection to donate to the jail library
- Volunteer at a local organization offering after school care, tutoring, literacy program, orphanage, Women's Home for at-risk children/youth.
- Contact a local jail/detention center and interview the prison chaplain. Find out how his work makes a difference to the inmates.
- Do a collection of spiritual care packages (prayer cards, rosaries, books on saints, etc.) for jails or prisons.
- Make cookies with bible verses for jails.
- Research about domestic violence and why victims sometimes stay with partner. Contact CVAN/women's domestic abuse center to offer help.

## **Shelter the Homeless/Welcome the Stranger**

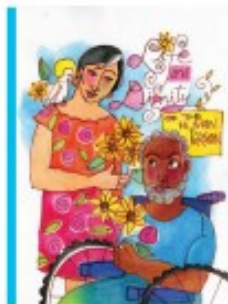
- Organize a blanket drive
- Interview a director of a homeless shelter and ask why he is the director? What makes him work for a shelter?
- Collect games/puzzles for an orphanage or Women's shelter that has children
- Arrange to go play bingo for the homeless shelter during dinner
- Invite someone who is not attending church to come to Mass with you. Talk about their experiences afterwards.
- Design a "youth" brochure of things young people can get involved in at St. James for our new parishioners
- Visit the website [www.catholicworker.org](http://www.catholicworker.org) and write a short report on what the movement does.
- Watch the movie Entertaining Angels and write a report about the movie and what the main character does.
- Volunteer at the Wings of Eagles horse ranch that works with special needs children and adults.
- Volunteer at an animal shelter\*

*\*(Volunteering to care for animals is an act of kindness towards God's creation. While praiseworthy in and of itself, just working at an animal shelter for the sake of the animals does not meet the requirement for a work of mercy.; works of mercy are geared towards our brothers and sister in our communities—the ones who have no one to care for them adequately. Wings of Eagles is an example of working with animals for the sake of the humans they impact. Any work at an animal shelter will have to follow the same pattern)*

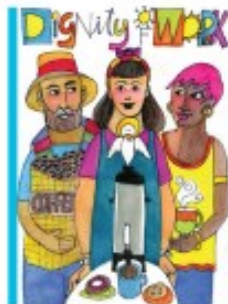
## **Bury the Dead**

- Call the parish office to have a Mass said for someone who has passed away *\*(there is a suggested donation for Masses.)*
- Organize a prayer walk at a cemetery (any time, but suggestion: Memorial Day (May 27, 2019).
- Organize a bake sale at church, donate the proceeds to the Charlotte Catholic Charities Burial Fund.
- Look up the following answers in the YouCat or reputable Catholic website ([www.disciplesnow.com](http://www.disciplesnow.com)) to the questions: What are ghosts? What will our resurrected bodies be like? Are autopsies allowed by the church? Is organ donation allowed by the church? What happens when a body is unrecoverable?

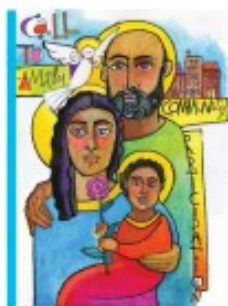
# the seven themes of **CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING** for children



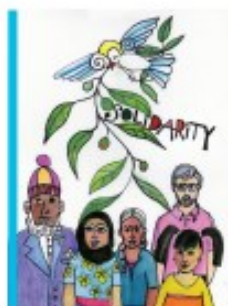
- 1** God made each person, so every life is important and should be protected.



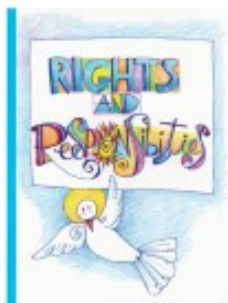
- 5** Work is important in God's plan for adults and their families, so jobs and pay should be fair.



- 2** God made us to be part of communities, families and countries, so all people can share and help each other.



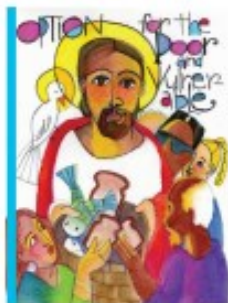
- 6** God made everyone, so we are all brothers and sisters in God's family wherever we live.



- 3** God wants us to help make sure everyone is safe and healthy and can have a good life.



- 7** The world was made by God, so we take care of all creation.



- 4** God wants us to help people who are poor, who don't have enough food, a safe place to live, or a community.



These themes are based on United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Sharing Catholic Social Teaching: Challenges and Directions.  
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