

# **Works of Mercy Supplemental Information**

## **Spiritual Works of Mercy ideas:**

### **Admonish/Convert the Sinner**

- Write and recite a prayer for the conversion of sinners. Recite it for a couple of weeks. Share your prayer.
- Research people who lost their jobs because they refused to participate in the sins of others (i.e. a nurse who refuses to help do an abortion).
- Watch the movie A Man for All Seasons. Write a brief report about the movie. Who is it about? What did he do?
- Research what is euthanasia ([www.euthanasia.com](http://www.euthanasia.com)). What does the YouCat/Catechism of the Catholic Church say about euthanasia?

### **Instruct the Ignorant**

- Correct someone who misunderstands what the Church teaches with kindness and charity.
- Volunteer to help younger children in K-5 Faith Formation learn prayers. *Contact Kitty McIndoe in the office.*
- Help a younger sibling with homework
- Find a short play on a Bible story and recruit friends to perform it for a Faith Formation class.
- Visit [www.freethechildren.org](http://www.freethechildren.org) to see how you can help children in developing countries get school supplies.
- Organize a bake sale with other students at church to raise money for Fr. Vang's Viet Toc Foundation to send children to school; *\$5 a month or \$60 a year will provide one student with an education for an entire school year.*
- Volunteer to tutor at the International Center for Community Development (*formerly the Hispanic Learning Center*).
- Do a school supply collection for children who are residing at CVAN or the Women's Shelter.
- Do a book drive for a local literacy group/head start program.
- With adult assistance, organize a few story-telling sessions for young children at church sharing children's Bible stories.

### **Counsel the Doubtful**

- Interview family members asking how they made it through periods of doubt
- Invite a family member/friend to church who is experiencing doubt
- Read a book on Catholic apologetics like Mark Hart's 100 Things Every Catholic Teen Should Know (*Michael has copies of this resource to lend out*)
- Make a card of encouragement for a friend/classmate who is down

### **Comfort the Sorrowful**

- Make or send a card for someone who is fighting a health battle or who has lost someone
- Attend a funeral if possible

### **Bear Wrongs Patiently**

- Choose to do a prayer devotion that grows your patience (Rosary, reading Scripture for 15 minutes etc.)
- Create a "patience journal" to keep track of incidents that try your patience and include the blessings that help you through.
- Watch the movie St. Therese of Lisieux and share how she was able to bare wrongs patiently.

## **Forgive Injuries**

- Make peace with those you struggle with
- Go to Reconciliation (**not during scheduled Faith Formation Reconciliation times**), make a special trip to St. James; Saturdays, 2-4 p.m.
- Learn St. Ignatius of Loyola's Examen and do it for a week; journal what you learned during that time.
- Write a letter to God expressing your difficulties in trying to live "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us."
- Watch *The Gridiron Gang*, *The Way or Remember the Titans* and write a brief report on the forgiveness themes in the movie
- Read *Left to Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust* by Immaculee Ilibagiza.

## **Pray for the Living and the Dead**

- Read the obituaries from the paper or local paper's website. Pray for all those who passed away.
- Learn how to recite the Divine Mercy Chaplet to pray for the conversion of sinners and for souls
- Do the Rosary at the St. James Rosary Garden. Do prayer intentions for each decade for Living or dead or both.
- Attend Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.  
*It is held every Monday 9:00am—6:00pm. Friday, 1-8 pm in the Chapel (cry room in the church);  
7-8 pm Liturgy of the Hours and the Rosary are recited.*
- Pray regularly as a family
- Offer prayers for the souls in Purgatory