

## **CORPORAL & SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY**

Every Christian has a calling and a responsibility to serve as a living example of Jesus' teachings – to serve one another. For Christians, young and old, service should be an attitude, a way of life. It is important not only to listen and understand the Word of God, but also to apply the lessons learned, through daily life and service to others. This is essential to living as a Catholic Christian following in the footsteps of Jesus. Below is a list of the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy that fulfill Christ's mission of mercy.

Fulfilling the Works of Mercy for each of us is a lifelong commitment to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Matthew 25:32-46 tells us that when we feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, take care of the sick, and visit the imprisoned, we care for Christ himself.

**The Corporal Works of Mercy** recognizes the sacredness of human life. We learn through fulfilling these Works of Mercy for others that we are our brother's keeper. Our feelings of love for our fellow man must be accompanied by acts of charity.

- 1) Feed the hungry.
- 2) Give drink to the thirsty.
- 3) Clothe the naked.
- 4) Shelter the homeless.
- 5) Visit those in prison.
- 6) Comfort the sick.
- 7) Bury the dead.
- 8) Care of the Environment & Animals – this is in response to Pope Francis' remarks during the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation

**The Spiritual Works of Mercy** recognize sin, ignorance, doubt, sorrow, and other human conditions where we need to reach out in faith and love to others. How many times did Jesus rebuke with love, counsel, and teach and help those who did not know Him?

- 1) Convert/admonish sinners.
- 2) Instruct the ignorant/uninformed.
- 3) Counsel the doubtful.
- 4) Comfort the sorrowful/afflicted.
- 5) Bear wrongs patiently.
- 6) Forgive offenses/injuries.
- 7) Pray for the living and the dead.

## **WORKS OF MERCY REFLECTION ESSAY**

After completing your W.O.M. Service Project, you need to write a reflection essay based upon your service experience.

As a general rule, Reflection Essays should be turned in by the ONE EIGHT night following the completion of the “service” portion of your WOM Service Project.

### **W.O.M. Service Project Reflection Essay Instructions**

- Your Reflection Essay should be typed and about **2 pages in length** (approximately **750-1000 words**).
- If you have photos from your service project, you may include a few photos at the END of the Reflection Essay (**no more than 3 photos please**).
- You may either email the Reflection Essay to Elizabeth @ [GoodShepherdEDGE@gscceg.org](mailto:GoodShepherdEDGE@gscceg.org) or bring in a hard copy to ONE EIGHT Class.
- PLEASE include your name on your typed essay!

**The W.O.M. Service Project Reflection Essay should clearly address the following points/themes:**

- “I shared God’s love with others by”...(type of service)
- What Corporal and/or Spiritual Work(s) of Mercy did this service project reflect and how did it reflect the Work(s) of Mercy?
- WHY did you choose to do this service?
- Give a **BRIEF** description of what you did (**2-3 sentences at most**).
- Who benefitted from the service?
- How did you, the Confirmation Candidate, feel about the service you performed?
- How were your parents/family involved in this service project with you, and how did this experience impact you and your family?
- How do you think this service project helps you prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation?
- How do you see service to others being a part of your life in the future?
- Would you do this service again? Why or why not?