

living the corporal works of mercy

AS A FAMILY

FEED THE HUNGRY:

- Volunteer at a soup kitchen
- Make sandwiches and hand them out to homeless people
- Bring a meal to a family with a new baby
- Bring a meal to a family having a difficult time
- Share food with a friend or sibling
- Make dinner for your family
- Throw a dinner party for friends you don't think could afford a nice dinner
- Don't throw a dinner party and donate the money you would have spent
- Eat beans and rice for a week and donate your grocery money

GIVE DRINK TO THE THIRSTY:

- Give water to someone working in your neighborhood
- Set up a lemonade stand and donate the money you make
- Give out water bottles at an event on a hot day

CLOTHE THE NAKED:

- Clean out your closets and donate unneeded clothing
- Organize a charity clothing drive
- Offer to help sort clothing at your local pregnancy resource center
- Do the laundry for your family
Help a younger sibling get dressed

VISIT THE IMPRISONED:

- Visit an imprisoned friend or family member
- Write a letter to an imprisoned friend or family member
- Visit a nursing home or a lonely member of your parish
- Offer to babysit for a mother of all young children
- Offer to babysit a younger sibling for your mom

SHELTER THE HOMELESS:

- Donate food or blankets to a homeless shelter
- Donate to disaster relief services
- Take in a foster child
- Take in a needy relative
- Help an elderly neighbor with home repairs

VISIT THE SICK:

- Visit a friend or family member in the hospital
- Visit a nursing home
- Look after a sick member of your family at home
- Help an old or sick person with errands or chores

BURY THE DEAD:

- Go to a funeral
- Visit a cemetery and put flowers on graves
- Learn about your ancestors

living the spiritual works of mercy

AS A FAMILY

ADMONISH THE SINNER:

- Set a good example
- Remind a sibling or friend of the rules
- Offer to bring a friend or family member to Confession
- Have a calm and loving chat with a person with whom you have a relationship about a particular sinful behavior

INSTRUCT THE IGNORANT:

- Teach a catechism class
- Share a helpful article/blog post in a friendly way
- Lend a good book
- Be an RCIA sponsor or a godparent
- Help a sibling read a book, play a game, or learn a prayer

COUNSEL THE DOUBTFUL:

- Learn the teachings of the Catholic Church so you'll have the answer if you get asked a question
- Pray outside an abortion clinic
- Be there to listen to a friend and give good advice
- Reach out to a friend who might need advice
- Help a sibling or friend make the right choice

FORGIVE ALL INJURIES:

- Forgive a grudge you've been holding, even if it was someone else's fault
- Call or write to an estranged friend or family member
- Give a friend or sibling a second chance

COMFORT THE SORROWFUL:

- Visit a friend or family member who is having a difficult time
- Send someone a sympathy card or a care package
- Remember the anniversary of a friend's miscarriage or loss of a child or spouse
- Read a story or sing a song to a sibling who is feeling sad

BEAR WRONGS PATIENTLY:

- Don't get mad at other drivers
- Assume the best of people you encounter in real life and online
- Give up a toy that a friend or sibling wants to play with, even though you had it first
- Don't gossip about the bad behavior of others
- Don't tattle

PRAY FOR THE LIVING AND THE DEAD:

- Visit a cemetery, especially in November
- Keep a list of prayer intentions
- Say a family Rosary
- Pray a Divine Mercy Chaplet for those who will die this day
- Pray the Prayer of St. Gertrude for the souls in Purgatory
- Choose a family in your community and dedicate an entire week to praying for them