

1. Introduction

GATHERING

Jesus' whole life and ministry reveals God's mercy. Jesus pardoned the sinner, cared for the poor, associated with the marginalised, healed the sick and walked with the suffering. The Corporal Works are derived from the Gospels, especially, Matthew 25:40, where Jesus Christ reminds us that whenever we care for people who are in most need, we care for him.



READING

Dorothy Day, an adult convert to Catholicism, lived the Works of Mercy in her commitment to the poor, the hungry, the homeless, the rights of workers, social justice and peace. In January 1943 she wrote, "... There are always the poor, as our Lord reminded us. There are always the lame, the halt and the blind, people being discharged from hospitals, unemployable, vagrants. There are always these, our least ..., in whom we may see Christ as he told us to. And the harder it is to see him under dirt and drink and vermin, the more we are exercising our faith." (goo.gl/GLhfQj)

BIBLE PASSAGE

When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet." (John 13:12-15)

DISCUSSION

How does the call to mercy through the Corporal Works inspire the life of your ministry?

PRAYER (PAUSE FOR ANY SPECIAL INTENTIONS)

Source of Justice and Love,
Open our eyes to the needs of the people around us.
Open our ears to the call for justice and equality.
Open our minds to the reality of exclusion and disadvantage.
Open our hearts to love and mercy.
Amen.

May the works of mercy inspire and enrich your ministry in Mercy Partners

LIVING THE CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY

Feed the hungry

Ask: Who is hungry and why?

Protect food sources and biodiversity and oppose waste

Share resources – ‘be more’ rather than ‘having more’

Support those who feed the most vulnerable

Give drink to the thirsty

Ask: What are people thirsting for?

Oppose the privatisation of water

Be ever mindful of people who need the basics of life

Clothe the naked

Ask: Who is the vulnerable?

Protect the old, young, homeless, poor, trafficked...

Act for those who need human warmth

Be grateful for those who surround you in warmth and comfort

Welcome the stranger

Ask: Who needs a safe space?

Reach out to the unloved and the unpopular

Practise radical hospitality

Visit the imprisoned

Ask: What captures people today?

Give up attitudes and habits which enslave

Help those who are prisoners and those confined by fear or loneliness

Visit the sick

Ask: What brings comfort to the sick?

Be there for people who need you

Be aware of those in your community who are unwell

Bury the dead

Ask: What do you need to bury?

Put away those things which can bring physical or spiritual death

Move on from the negatives of the past

Remember with gratitude those who have died and how they have impacted on your life

Show mercy to our common home

Ask: What you can do to nurture the environment?

Practise simple daily gestures which break with the logic of violence, exploitation and selfishness

Show mercy to all of creation

Support action for the environment and support those who care for creation

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COMPASSION JUSTICE RESPECT HOPE



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