

THE CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY

AGES 9-11

Reflection for the Catechist:

I have asked the Church in this Jubilee Year to rediscover the richness encompassed by the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. The experience of mercy, indeed, becomes visible in the witness of concrete signs as Jesus himself taught us. Each time that one of the faithful personally performs one or more of these actions, he or she shall surely obtain the Jubilee Indulgence. Hence the commitment to live by mercy so as to obtain the grace of complete and exhaustive forgiveness by the power of the love of the Father who excludes no one.

Letter of His Holiness Pope Francis, According to which an indulgence is granted to the faithful on the occasion of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy (September 1, 2015)

CCC 2447: The works of mercy are charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbor in his spiritual and bodily necessities. Instructing, advising, consoling, comforting are spiritual works of mercy, as are forgiving and bearing wrongs patiently. The corporal works of mercy consist especially in feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned, and burying the dead. Among all these, giving alms to the poor is one of the chief witnesses to fraternal charity: it is also a work of justice pleasing to God:

He who has two coats, let him share with him who has none and he who has food must do likewise. But give for alms those things which are within; and behold, everything is clean for you. If a brother or sister is ill-clad and in lack of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what does it profit?

Materials Needed:

- Copies of the Holy Bible (NRSV) - one per group
- A comfortable space for the group to engage in discussion
- Space for the groups to plan a tableau
- Copies of the prayer

Gathering

1. Explain to the group that beginning on December 8, 2015 through November 2016, Pope Francis has declared a Year of Mercy.
2. Explore with the group what they understand mercy to be. It may be helpful for you to tell them about a time when you experienced mercy.
3. Allow them to share experiences that they have had where they or someone they know has shown mercy to another.

Listening

4. Read Luke 6.27-36 aloud, or have a group member read it.
5. Read: Jesus says to those who listen:
 - Love your enemies
 - Do good to those who hate you
 - Bless those who curse you
 - Pray for those who abuse you
 - If you are struck on the cheek by another; offer the other cheek
 - If someone takes away your coat; give them your shirt too
 - Give to beggars
 - If someone steals from you; do not ask for them to return your goods
 - Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful
6. Ask the following reflection questions to the group, allowing them time to think and reflect between each question:
 - As you listen to these instructions from Jesus how are you feeling – comfortable – uncomfortable – perplexed – challenged – hopeful?
 - Why do you feel the way you do?
 - Do you believe that you can accomplish what Jesus is asking of you? Why or why not?
 - Think of a time when you dealt with someone who treated you poorly – how did you handle it? Were you merciful or merciless?
 - Think of a time when you treated someone else poorly – how was it received? Was the person whom you treated badly merciful or merciless toward you?

Doing

7. Have the students organize themselves into small groups of two or three.
8. Provide each group with a bible.
9. Have them look up Luke 6.27-36.
10. Explain that each group will select a 'scene' from the list above (see No. 5 above).
11. Once they have chosen their scene ask the groups to prepare a tableau. A tableau is a way to represent a story using drama. The groups will create a picture of the text that is frozen. Encourage the groups to be creative.
12. After 10 - 15 minutes of preparation have the groups present their tableaux. Have someone read the scripture passage aloud while the tableaux are being presented.
13. End the session by having the entire group say together, "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful."

Going

14. Pray the prayer for the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy on the following page together.



PRAYER OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR THE EXTRAORDINARY JUBILEE OF MERCY

Lord Jesus Christ,

you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father,
and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him.
Show us your face and we will be saved.

Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew from being enslaved by money;
the adulteress and Magdalene from seeking happiness only in created things;
made Peter weep after his betrayal,
and assured Paradise to the repentant thief.

Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us, the words that you spoke to the Samaritan woman:

“If you knew the gift of God!”

You are the visible face of the invisible Father,
of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy:

Let the Church be your visible face in the world, its Lord risen and glorified.

You willed that your ministers would also be clothed in weakness
in order that they may feel compassion for those in ignorance and error:

Let everyone who approaches them feel sought after, loved, and forgiven by God.

Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing,
so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord,
and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor,
proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed,
and restore sight to the blind.

We ask this of you, Lord Jesus, through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy;
you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit forever and ever.

Amen.



FEED THE HUNGRY



**GIVE DRINK
TO THE THIRSTY**



CLOTHE THE NAKED



SHELTER THE HOMELESS

THE
CORPORAL
WORKS OF
MERCY



VISIT THE SICK



VISIT THE IMPRISONED



BURY THE DEAD



**“BE MERCIFUL, JUST
AS YOUR FATHER
IS MERCIFUL”
- LUKE 6:36**