

# ***Ministry & Mission***

## **Why must I do service during Confirmation prep?**

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states that preparation for Confirmation should help enable a Christian to assume the apostolic responsibilities of the Christian life (CCC #1309). Further, it is the Church's responsibility to discern whether or not a person is responsive to God's grace and suitably prepared to receive Confirmation by looking for signs in that person's life; one of which is manifested by our acts of charity and serving those in need.

## **What are the service requirements?**

Participate in a minimum of the following:

- 2 instances of parish ministry, AND...
- 2 instances of mission service in the larger community

Completed and submitted a reflection for each

## **What is considered participation in "Ministry"?**

"Ministry" involves participating in and serving your church community through any of the active ministries in our parish. This could be helping the Knights serve pancake breakfast or helping with the Fall Festival or Senior Prom.

The word "parishioner" is related to the word "pilgrim." As parishioners of All Saints, we are all pilgrims on a journey to heaven and need to help each other to get where we are going.

## **What is considered participation in "Mission"?**

"Mission" involves going out and serving those in need through the Corporal or Spiritual Works of Mercy. These would be considered what we traditionally think of as "service projects." However, whatever activities you choose to fulfill your Mission requirements, remember that they must be geared towards serving people who are in need.

As Christians, serving the poor and needy are at the heart of what Jesus calls us to do and in the next life, we will be judged partly by how well we served those in need in this life.

## **What are the Works of Mercy?**

The Corporal works of Mercy are taken from the Gospel of Matthew, where Jesus tells of how the righteous are ushered in to eternal life because of the merciful deeds they performed in Faith for those in need, and the Book of Tobit where he performs many charitable acts for his people including burying their dead with respect.

“Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.' “

Matthew 25:34-36

The Spiritual Works of Mercy are taken from an assortment of verses throughout all of scripture and have been a part of the Tradition of the Catholic Church since the beginning.

### ***Corporal Works of Mercy***

Feed the hungry  
Give drink to the thirsty  
Clothe the naked  
Shelter the homeless  
Visit the sick  
Visit the imprisoned  
Bury the dead

### ***Spiritual Works of Mercy***

Instruct the ignorant  
Counsel the doubtful  
Admonish the sinner  
Bear wrongs patiently  
Forgive offenses willingly  
Comfort the sorrowful  
Pray for the living & dead

## **How do I go about doing these acts of Ministry & Mission?**

The following pages list several ideas and organizations in our area where you may be able to fulfill your service obligations. The list can also be accessed online at the Confirmation Homepage. This is by no means an exhaustive list. It is meant to give you some ideas. Do your own research as well to find other ways that you can help someone in need and get involved in your parish community.

## **Confirmation Prep: Ministry and Mission**

2021-2022

- 1) Choose two (2) Corporal Works of Mercy
- 2) Choose two (2) Spiritual Works of Mercy
- 3) Carry out each chosen work of mercy
- 4) Submit reflection via Google Form (see email or Confirmation Homepage)
- 5) Complete and submit the reflections by February 13, 2022

*\* Please remember that the service projects listed inside are suggestions! Feel free to be creative with the ways you choose to perform your works of mercy. All service projects should be done in a way that is safe for all parties involved.*

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### **The Corporal Works of Mercy**

**FEED THE HUNGRY** – there are many people in this world who go without food. When so much of our food goes to waste, consider how good stewardship practices of your own food habits can benefit others who do not have those same resources.

**GIVE DRINK TO THE THIRSTY** – many of our brothers and sisters in Christ do not have access to clean water and suffer from the lack of this necessity. We should support the efforts of those working towards greater accessibility of this essential resource.

**SHELTER THE HOMELESS** – there are many circumstances that could lead to someone becoming a person without a home. Christ encourages us to go out and meet those without homes, affirming their worth and helping them seek a resolution to the challenges they face.

**VISIT THE SICK** - Those who are sick are often forgotten or avoided. Despite their illness, these individuals still have much to offer to those who take the time to visit and comfort them.

**VISIT THE IMPRISONED** – People in prison are still people, made in the image and likeness of God. No matter what someone has done, they deserve the opportunity to hear the word of God and find the truth of the message of Christ.

**BURY THE DEAD** – Funerals give us the opportunity to grieve and show others support during difficult times period through our prayers and actions during such times, we show our respect for life, which is always a gift from God, and we give comfort to those who mourn. Praying for the souls in Purgatory is one of the purest intentions, and funerals and cemeteries are designed for just that.

**CLOTHE THE NAKED** – Donate new needed clothing or money to organizations that have the ability to provide support and services for those in need. “Clothing” means more than just ‘the shirt on your back.’ Do some research and find organizations that put people in need first, rather than profit.

### **The Spiritual Works of Mercy**

**COUNSEL THE DOUBTFUL** - Everyone has moments of doubt in their faith journey. Nevertheless, we should always remember that Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life; and to turn to him along our way.

**INSTRUCT THE IGNORANT** - Learn about your faith and be open to talking with others about our beliefs. There is always something more to discover about the faith.

**ADMONISH THE SINNER** - Do not judge someone's heart, but be supportive in helping others find their way and correct their mistakes. Together we can learn to walk more closely with Christ.

**COMFORT THE SORROWFUL** - Be open to listening and comforting those who are dealing with grief. Even if we aren't sure of the right words to say, our presence can make a big difference.

**FORGIVE OFFENSES WILLINGLY** - Forgiving others is difficult at times because we do not have God's limitless mercy and compassion. But Jesus teaches us that we should forgive as God Forgives, relying on him to help us show others the mercy of God.

**BEAR WRONGS PATIENTLY** - Do not be bitter about wrongs done against you. Place your hope in God so that you can endure the troubles of this world and face them with a compassionate spirit.

**PRAY FOR THE LIVING AND THE DEAD** - prayer is one of the most powerful ways we can support others. Joining together in prayer for the living and the dead and trusts us all into God's care.

### **THE CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY** - Ideas

- Bury the Dead
  - Pick up trash at a local cemetery
  - Send cards and flowers to grieving family members
  - Make food for a family who has suffered a loss
  - Visit a grave site to pray, put out flowers, flags, etc.
- Clothe the Naked
  - Buy and donate coats for people who need them
  - Clean out your closet and donate to an organization or a family that you know
  - Donate suitcases and duffel bags to CPS for foster children
  - Collect baby items for moms in need and donate to a local pregnancy Resource Center
  - Heavy garage sale and donate the money
  - Make fleece blankets for hospitals
  - Make button headbands for nurses / doctors
- Feed the Hungry
  - Donate canned foods to your parish or a local food pantry
  - Give food to a homeless person
  - Make blessing bags to keep in your car and hand out to those in need
  - Bring meals to someone who is sick, just had a baby, or a neighbor who cannot get out of their house
  - Set the table, do the dishes, or help cook dinner for your family
  - Go shopping and deliver food to someone
  - Decorate reusable grocery bags and stuff them with non perishable food items to donate to a food pantry
- Give Drink to the Thirsty

- Donate water to shelters, a local police or fire station, or an organization collecting for an emergency situation
- Leave drinks or a snack out on your porch in a blanket for people who make deliveries to your home. You can add a Bible verse or a letter of encouragement to the snacks!
- Keep water bottles in your car to hand out to people alongside the road
- Shelter the Homeless
  - volunteer or fundraise for organizations that build homes for people
  - Donate old furniture, pillows, blankets, etc. to those that need it
  - Nowhere safe places are and tell people about them
  - Pay a hotel room for someone who needs it, or help pay someone's rent
  - Turn plastic bags into yarn to be used to crochet plastic mats for the homeless
  - Put donation box in your church to collect plastic bags and create mats
- Visit the Imprisoned
  - donate paperback bibles and religious books to the West Tower Detention Facility
  - encourage your representatives to support the "Second Look 2021 Bill"
  - Send cards to or call people who are homebound, hospitalized, or in residential care
  - Cook for someone who is homebound
  - Do a drive by hello with signs and noisemakers for someone who is homebound
  - Collect Christmas cards and mailed to inmates
- Visit the Sick
  - Ask a priest to visit a sick person and perform the anointing of the sick
  - FaceTime a family member who is sick
  - Make a card, call on the phone or sum someone who was sick, especially if they are stuck at home or in the hospital
  - Making care package that will help a sick person like pillows, games, books, etc.
  - Bring someone who is sick a home cooked meal (use proper safety precautions)
  - Be extra nice to your own family members when they are sick.

#### **THE SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY - Ideas**

- Admonish the Sinner
  - Kindly and privately talked to a person with whom you had a problem
  - Suggest someone receive reconciliation or you receive the sacrament yourself
  - Help a person you have a problem with understand why something is wrong
  - Lead people towards the best choice in a situation
  - Stop a problem before it happens
  - consider the causes and effects of problems
  - Using your Christian background, advocate for social justice on one of your personal social media pages
- Bear Wrongs Patiently
  - be slow to anger, less judgmental of those in your family
  - Go out of your way to show love for or get to know someone you may have passed judgment upon in the past
  - Be patient when you're trying to help someone, and they don't want your help
  - Don't help people expecting a thank you; do it out of the kindness of your heart
  - Be kind to people who make mistakes
  - Turn the other cheek
  - Let your sibling use something before you

- Council the Doubtful
  - adopt A senior
  - Chalk morale boosters; write encouraging messages on the sidewalk
  - Paint rocks with uplifting messages and leave them in parks near your house
  - Willingly explain things
  - Share why you have hope; Call or Zoom with a friend or neighbor who may be depressed or doubtful
  - Encourage someone to talk to an expert, like a priest, teacher, counselor, etc.
  - Pray that people will have faith
- Comfort the Sorrowful
  - Send encouraging letters to a nursing home, hospital, prison, community helper, grocery store employee, etc.
  - Create encouraging yard signs and get permission to put them in your neighbors' yards
  - Offer comfort by baking cookies, making a meal, sending a card
  - Call someone who is sad. Spend time and pray with them
  - Do things that bring joy to another person
  - Create an uplifting social media post or social media movement
- Forgive Offenses Willingly
  - forgive a wrong
  - Don't hold a grudge
  - Give someone a second chance
  - Accept apologies with kindness
  - Research St. Maria Goretti and ask for her to intercede for you the next time you are struggling to forgive someone
- Instruct the Ignorant
  - give people more time; Don't rush them
  - If you are good at something, be willing to teach that skill to others
  - Share helpful tips on your social media in a polite way
  - Be willing to tell stories that you know about the Bible, the Saints, and the church
  - Talk about your faith; Read a Bible story to a friend or family member via phone or FaceTime
  - Don't think you are better than someone else because of your knowledge
  - Apologize to someone you may have belittled
  - Help someone to learn a new skill without boasting about your know how. Teach by example
- Pray for the Living and the Dead
  - at home rosary-making; Check with your parish for these supplies if needed
  - Prayer rosary, chaplet, holy hour, novena or other prayer for a specific person
  - Ask your friends how you can pray for them and say a prayer immediately, instead of waiting for later
  - Make prayer cards; Give out to neighbors or a ministry in your parish