

WORKS OF MERCY PROJECT GUIDELINES

“It is you young people that the task first falls of bearing witness to the Faith and bringing into the third millennium the Gospel of Christ, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life” --St. John Paul the Great.

As you prepare for Confirmation, it is vital that you understand that need for serving your fellow man as well as your brothers and sisters in faith. The Works of Mercy are powerful ways to serve others.

“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” (Catechism of the Catholic Church 2447).

The Works of Mercy Projects are designed to provide those seeking Confirmation with opportunities to better understand the role that serving the needs of others plays in leading a Christ-like life and living out the Faith as Catholic adults. The Church calls on each of us to fulfill its mission of spreading the Gospel message and sharing the love God has shared with us through the teachings of Jesus. By completing your Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy project, you will experience a taste of the many ways the Catholic Church inspires us to love others, especially those most in need.

The Seven Corporal Works of Mercy: feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, visit the sick, visit the imprisoned, and bury the dead.

The Seven Spiritual Works of Mercy: instruct the ignorant, counsel the doubtful, admonish the sinner, comfort the afflicted, bear wrongs patiently, forgive offenses willingly, pray for the living and pray for the dead.

For your Works of Mercy Projects, you will perform tasks relating to the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. You must complete **4 tasks** in total: **2 Corporal Works of Mercy** (One **MUST** include participation in Grate Patrol) and **2 Spiritual Works of Mercy**.

Other than Grate Patrol, each task should take about two hours cumulatively (so 1 hour for two days, 2 hours one time, 30 minutes for 4 days etc.). Please complete the Work of Mercy Project Form for each Work of Mercy you complete (You'll have 4 total). These can be filled out and emailed or turned into the Religious Education Office as you complete them.

Please note: You may only use tasks that you have completed since the start of the **2022-2023** School Year. Tasks done prior to this may not be used. You can refer to the reference page for suggestions on different works of Mercy that you can complete.

What is Grate Patrol?

Grate Patrol is a hands-on service opportunity in which our high school students are invited to deliver food directly to persons who are homeless and living on the streets of Washington, DC. Additionally, Grate Patrol has grown to allow for the entire parish to be involved by stocking bags with essentials, keeping them in their car and then distributing to those in need on their own. Grate Patrol gives parishioners the opportunity to interact with those who are experiencing homelessness. Confirmation Students are **required** to participate in Grate Patrol as one of their Corporal Works of Mercy Projects. Students will have opportunities to participate in a Grate Patrol activity starting in December and continuing through March. Students/Parents will receive emails to sign students up in advance. *Students may substitute a Knights of Columbus Food Distribution activity in place of Grate Patrol.* Students and parents are encouraged to volunteer for Grate Patrol together. An email sign up will be sent out to students and parents to register for a session.

All Works of Mercy Projects are due by April 10, 2024.

Works of Mercy Reference Page

The activities listed on this page are suggestions. You are not limited to these activities alone for your Works of Mercy Projects. Be creative! You can check the parish website or bulletin for more activities on how to serve. If you have a question about what might be acceptable, please contact the Religious Education Office.

Corporal Works of Mercy:

Feed the Hungry/Give Drink to the Thirsty: Participate in Grate Patrol more than once, organize a food donation drive, and work in a soup kitchen.

Clothe the Naked: Do a winter coat drive, do a clothing drive, knit scarves for those in need, distribute winter clothing items to those in need.

Visit the Sick: Visit a nursing home (in a safe manner), volunteer with an organization that connects you to have conversations with seniors, deliver groceries/needed items to the homebound.

Shelter the Homeless: Participate in a walk for the homeless, volunteer at a homeless shelter or host a drive for toiletries for a homeless shelter, create a meal or serve a meal at a homeless shelter.

Visit the Imprisoned: Collect paperback books to donate to a jail library, help work with restorative justice programs, write letters to politicians to end the death penalty.

Bury the Dead: Attend a funeral, visit a cemetery and pray for departed souls, assist with a bereavement luncheon.

Spiritual Works of Mercy:

Admonish the Sinner: Gently correct someone who is misguided (this does not mean walk around and yell at a sibling)

Instruct the Ignorant: Assist in a Religious Education class for the school year, help a younger sibling with homework, help a younger sibling learn prayers, tutor someone younger than you, assist with Best Week Ever (VBS) or the school open house.

Counsel the Doubtful: Lend encouragement to someone who is feeling down, create cards for those who are hospitalized perhaps for mental health issues.

Comfort the Sorrowing: Make a card for someone who is ill or who has recently lost a loved one, work with organizations who help comfort those who lost their pregnancies.

Bear Wrongs Patiently: Discuss an occasion where you turned the other cheek.

Forgive all Injuries: Offer forgiveness/make peace with those that you struggle with.

Pray for the Living and the Dead: Attend the March for Life, Attend the Life is Very Good Rally in January, Offer prayers for the souls in purgatory, attend a holy hour or a rosary or Stations of the Cross, Do an "Encounter" that's sponsored by the Office of Youth, Campus and Young Adult Ministries:

<https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/encounters/>

MAKE SEVERAL COPIES OF THIS FORM

WORK OF MERCY PROJECT FORM (ONE WORK OF MERCY PROJECT PER PAGE) DUE BY APRIL 10, 2024

Student Name _____
FIRST MIDDLE LAST FAMILY NAME IF DIFFERENT
Teacher Name: _____ CLASS SESSION: _____

→ Complete a separate "Work of Mercy Project Form" for each work of mercy in which you participate.

Please select which Work of Mercy you completed:

- Grate Patrol
- Corporal Works of Mercy
- Spiritual Works of Mercy

Name of Works of Mercy Project: _____

Which specific Work of Mercy is this? : _____

What did you do? _____

What did you enjoy about this project? : _____

What did you learn from this experience? : _____

How did this experience help you to follow Christ's example? _____

How did this experience help you to see Christ in others? _____

How did this experience help you to grow closer to Christ? _____

Please neatly print all the information. Think about the questions before you begin writing.

Due by April 10, 2024.