

**DIOCESE OF ORLANDO  
WORKS OF MERCY ACTIVITIES  
FOR CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOLS**

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## **Corporal Works of Mercy**

### 1. Feed the hungry

General ideas:

- PB and Jesus: Communal making of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to be bagged with Bible verses and distributed locally
- Seasonal food drive
- Volunteer at a food bank
  - o Competition between classes
    - Cans are positive, anything else is negative counts against classes
    - Winning class earns reward
- Foster relationship with local soup kitchen
  - Host food drive
  - Sort and deliver food
  - Bake for homeless/staff members/community
  - Gather leftovers from restaurants/stores
  - Donate extra food from lunch/events to local shelter
  - Holiday food baskets

Local programming:

- Catholic Charities (appendix)
- Local food banks

Global programming (see appendix for more information)

- Catholic Relief Services Food Fast
- Mary's Meals
- Catholic World Mission
- Cross International

### 2. Give drink to the thirsty

General ideas:

- Identify ways to conserve water on campus
- Bless homeless/sick with holy water
- Donate baby formula to the local women's clinic
- Run water stands at sporting events/races
- Lemonade stand to donate proceeds to local charity
- Educational presentation about the water crisis worldwide (potentially a graded assignment)
- Science project about the water quality in the local area
- Sell fair trade coffee, donate the benefits

Local programming:

- Local charities
- Local homeless shelters

Global programming (see appendix)

- Water Supply in Ethiopia via Catholic Relief Services
- Catholic World Mission
- Cross International

### 3. Clothe the naked

General ideas:

- Prom/Homecoming dress drive

- o Fashion show with donated items
- Giving tree: donate new clothes
- Clothing drive: item every day
- Baby clothes drive for local women's clinic
- The Closest Challenge (see appendix)

Local programming (see appendix):

- Catholic Charities
- Local Women's Clinics

#### 4. Shelter the homeless

General ideas:

- Go on a mission trip
- Volunteer to clean up local homeless shelters and beautify them
- Encourage students to smile at/talk to homeless people around town
- Care packages for the homeless
  - Nonperishable food items
  - Socks
  - Water
  - Hygiene Items
  - Encouraging notes
- Decorate shelter for the holidays
- Participate in homeless shelter Bible study
- Have a homeless person talk to the school at an assembly
- Mentor a foster child
- Invite a new person to Church
- Budget challenge (see appendix)

Local programming:

- Catholic Charities
- Habitat for Humanity

Global programming:

- Dominican Republic Mission Trip
- Catholic Relief Services emergency relief

#### 5. Visit the sick

General ideas:

- Volunteer at a hospital/hospice
- Visit retirement homes: sing, dance, arts/crafts
- Read to the blind
- Organize dance for special needs school
- Eucharistic Ministers to bring Holy Communion to the homebound
- Sponsor an elderly person/priest
- Host a blood drive at school

Local programming:

- Catholic cemetery list

#### 6. Visit the imprisoned

General ideas:

- Have a speaker at assembly that was formerly in prison
- Provide meals and support to students/community members with imprisoned parents
- Have the director of the local prison ministry speak to the school
- Novena for inmates on death row
- Collect/donate Bibles and spiritual books for prisoners
- Write cards for prisoners

Local programming:

- Diocesan list of prison ministries
- Florida groups against death penalty

### 7. Bury the dead

General ideas:

- Attend funerals of people you knew/did not know
- Volunteer at hospice
- Pray at abortion clinics
- Awareness of infant death rates (domestic and international)
  - Presentation/Assignment worth class credit
- Attend Life Chain as a school/class
- Attend services for an inmate who was executed
- Visit the Catholic Cemetery and pray for the dead
- Pray for those in purgatory

Local programming:

- Catholic cemetery

Global programming:

- Catholic Relief Services, emergency relief

# Spiritual Works of Mercy

## 1. Instruct the ignorant

General ideas:

- Tutoring
  - o Peer tutoring
  - o Pair high schoolers with younger students to read with them
  - o Pair schools for tutoring
- Talent show to share gifts and talents
- Parent faith learning night
- Teach retirees in your area to use the internet

Local programming:

- Tutoring centers or nurseries who welcome volunteers (see appendix)

## 2. Counsel the doubtful

General ideas:

- Suicide prevention speaker
  - o Dress down day with donations to crisis center (see appendix)
- Share why you have hope in an interactive bulletin board (see appendix)

Local programming:

- Support your local pregnancy center by donating baby items

## 3. Admonish sinners

General ideas:

- Examination of Conscience for teens (see appendix)
- Reconciliation service
- Students share their witness/testimony about God's mercy in their own life

## 4. Bear wrongs patiently

General ideas:

- Learn about patience by planting a seed and taking care of it every day
- Spend the month learning to identify emotions and discussing or role-playing ways to respond to difficult situations (see appendix)

## 5. Forgive offenses willingly

General ideas:

- Assembly on forgiving others
- Pray an act of contrition as a class at the end of the school day
- Learn a modified prayer of examen for teens (see appendix)

## 6. Comfort the sorrowful

General ideas:

- Learn old sing-along songs and visit a nursing home to sing with them (see appendix)
- Attend a funeral of someone you do or don't know

## 7. Pray for the living and the dead

General ideas:

- Visit a local cemetery and pray
- Partner each student with another classmate to pray for them for the month
- Learn about plenary indulgences, then complete the requirements for one
- Pray the St. Gertrude prayer (see appendix)
- Pray for the unborn