NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Confirmation Home lesson

for missed session 1/30/2022

Chapter 4, Part 3: Works of Mercy and Service

Make sure you also do the homework on the last page of this document!

*With a Parent* (because faith is meant to be shared), please discuss and write answers down where noted. Hand in all pages to receive credit for doing this make up work.

**Begin your Session with a prayer:**

Read this Scripture verse from the Letter of St. James:

“What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him?

If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day,

and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well,” but you do not give them the necessities of the body, what good is it?

So also faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

Indeed someone may say, “You have faith and I have works.” Demonstrate your faith to me without works, and I will demonstrate my faith to you *from* my works.” James 2:14-18

--Discuss together what this passage might mean for followers of Christ.

-- End your prayer time Praying an Our Father together

Discuss

* What does it mean to be a good person? What qualities do ‘good people’ have?
	+ What do the Beatitudes, following God’s Law (10 Commandments and Law of Love) have to do with being ‘good’
* Read page 40 under Actions Speak Louder Than Words, pg. 41 - 43. Discuss and record answers to these questions below
	+ What does the grace received in baptism help us do?
* When will this grace to show love for others be increased in you?
* What needs do we meet through the Corporal Works of Mercy?
* What are some examples of these works?
* What needs to we meet through the Spiritual Works of Mercy?
* What are examples of these works?
* “Justice is a matter of love AND your attitude toward service can teach others how to have a heart for others.” What does this mean? –maybe ask what does ‘have a heart’ mean?]

Read pg. 44 and 45; Discuss—

What is the Option for the Poor and Vulnerable? How do the Works of Mercy help us to assure justice for the poor?

Together read the information about the works of Mercy below. Each includes some suggestions for doing the particular Work of Mercy. Confirmation service is to be participation in these works. Most teens find it challenging to come up with ‘service ideas’. After reading these suggestions, think of at least 2 items of service you could do in the coming months:

1)

2)

**Service Forms**

At our session on 1/30, the catechists reviewed the Service Evaluation form to correct some common mistakes that are made, both in choosing service activities for Confirmation and in filling out the form:

1. Community service like car washes, working at a food stand, coaching little league are not Confirmation service. Unless the goal is to raise money for a particular charity(ie. Homelessness), someone who is sick, etc., fund raisers for school, teams, etc. cannot be used for Confirmation service.
	* We are not saying these things are not good to do; we are saying they are not *Confirmation* service
2. The form is to be filled out front and back. The back refers to the service recorded on the front. It is not a spot for you to tell why the work of Mercy is good, *but to tell how the service you did was a participation in that particular work of mercy*. Usually does not require a long answer. It’s more so you can see how it relates.
3. HOURS must be reported! DATES must be listed
4. 1 activity per month; minimum of 1 hr per service activity (if you do 2 things for 30 min. that is ok too, especially if it is prayer)
5. If you use prayer:
	* Writing ‘I prayed for 10 minutes” is not acceptable;
	* Writing ‘I prayed 3 rosaries for a respect for all life’ is very acceptable (prayed over 3 days, not all at once!)
6. The reason we ask you to do service: to establish a habit of service in your life! One comment in answer to the question “What was the hardest thing about your service” was----“Getting motivated to do it”. Followers of Christ must have a habit of regular service---as Jesus taught in the Works of Mercy.

USCCB:

**The Corporal Works of Mercy**

The Corporal Works of Mercy are found in the teachings of Jesus and give us a model for how we should treat all others, as if they were Christ in disguise. They "are charitable actions by which we help our neighbors in their bodily needs" (USCCA). They respond to the basic needs of humanity as we journey together through this life.

The seven Corporal Works of Mercy are listed below. After each work of mercy there are also suggestions and words of advice for living them out in our daily lives. Have your own suggestions? Let us know @USCCB and use the hashtag #mercyinmotion.

**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.

Having delicious food at Thanksgiving or Christmas dinner? Donate to a Thanksgiving or Christmas food drive so everyone can have something to eat.

Research, identify and contribute financially to organizations that serve the hungry.

The next time you make a recipe that can be easily frozen, make a double batch and donate one to your local food pantry or soup kitchen.

Try not to purchase more food than you are able to eat. If you notice that you end up throwing groceries away each week, purchasing less groceries would eliminate waste and allow you to donate the savings to those in need.

**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 basic necessity. We should support the efforts of those working towards greater accessibility of this essential resource.

We take it for granted that we have access to clean water. Donate to help build wells for water for those in need

Organize a group of children involved on a sports team (e.g. soccer) or a summer camp. Invite them to collect bottled water to distribute at a shelter for families. If parents can be involved, ask them to accompany their children in delivering the water to the families.

Do the same for youth and young adult groups.

Make an effort not to waste water. Remembering to turn off the water faucet when you are brushing your teeth or washing dishes can help, especially in regions suffering from drought.

**Shelter the homeless**

A homeless man rests on a bench in Baltimore. CNS Photo/Bob RollerThere 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.

See if your parish or diocese is involved with a local homeless shelter and volunteer some time.

Donate time or money to organizations that build homes for those who need shelter.

Many homeless shelters need warm blankets for their beds. If you can knit or sew that would be an extra loving gift.

There are millions of children and families who are on the move, fleeing from war, illness, hunger and impossible living conditions, and searching for peace and safety. Engage parish groups of children, youth, young adults, and families in doing some research on the causes and challenges that these families face to survive. Contact Catholic Social Services, or diocesan offices of peace and justice for help with your research. Seek ways to provide shelter for the homeless locally, regionally, nationally or internationally.

**visit the sick**

Those who are sick are often forgotten or avoided. In spite of their illness, these individuals still have much to offer to those who take the time to visit and comfort them.

Give blood

Spend time volunteering at a nursing home – Get creative and make use of your talents (e.g. sing, read, paint, call Bingo, etc.)!

Take time on a Saturday to stop and visit with an elderly neighbor.

Offer to assist caregivers of chronically sick family members on a one-time or periodic basis. Give caregivers time off from their caregiving responsibilities so they can rest, complete personal chores, or enjoy a relaxing break.

Next time you make a meal that can be easily frozen, make a double batch and give it to a family in your parish who has a sick loved one.

**visit the prisoners**

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.Pope Francis blesses an inmate at the Curran-Fromhold Correctional Facility in Philadelphia in September, 2015. CNS Photo/Paul Haring

See if your parish, or a nearby parish, has a prison ministry and if so, get involved.

Volunteer to help out or donate to charities that give Christmas presents to children whose parents are in prison.

**bury the dead**

Funerals give us the opportunity to grieve and show others support during difficult times. Through our prayers and actions during these times we show our respect for life, which is always a gift from God, and comfort to those who mourn.

Send a card to someone who has recently lost a loved one. Make your own card and use some of these prayers.

Visit the cemetery and pray for those you have lost.

Spend time planning your own funeral mass, read through the Order of Christian Funerals and find our hope in the Resurrection.

**give alms to the poor**

Donate money to organizations that have the ability to provide support and services for those in need. Do research and find organizations that put people in need first, rather than profit.

Skip the morning latte and put that money in the collection basket at church.

Find a charity that is meaningful to you and volunteer your time or donate.

This Lent, give up eating out at restaurants. Pack you meals and donate the extra money to charities.

Participate in CRS Rice Bowl

**The Spiritual Works of Mercy**

The Spiritual Works of Mercy have long been a part of the Christian tradition, appearing in the works of theologians and spiritual writers throughout history. Just as Jesus attended to the spiritual well-being of those he ministered to, these Spiritual Works of Mercy guide us to "help our neighbor in their spiritual needs" (USCCA).

The seven Spiritual Works of Mercy are listed below. After each work of mercy there are also suggestions and words of advice for living them out in our daily lives. Have your own suggestions? Let us know @USCCB using the hashtag #mercyinmotion!

**Counseling 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 turn to him along our way.

Listen to counsel and receive instruction, that you may eventually become wise" (Prov 19:20)

The Cross of Christ "the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength" (1 Cor 1:25)

Has someone asked you for advice? Orient your response to Christ, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life

Follow Christ with the witness of your life so that others may see God's love revealed in your actions

Accompany a friend who is struggling with believing to join a parish group for service or faith formation, share a book you found useful in dealing with your friend's faith concern, and worship at Sunday Mass

**instructing the ignorant**

Learn about our faith and be open to talking with others about our beliefs. There is always something more to discover about our faith.

Go on a service trip or short term mission trip. No time? Donate to support someone on their service trip

Volunteer to help with religious education programs at your parish

Invite someone to go to mass with you this weekend

Know your faith! Read through the USCCA to find out more about the Catholic faith and how to live it

**admonishing the sinner**

Do not judge, but be supportive in helping others find their way and correct their mistakes. Together we can learn to walk more closely with Christ.confession

In humility we must strive to create a culture that does not accept sin, while realizing that we all fall at times

Don't judge, but guide others towards the path of salvation (see Mt 7:1-2)

When you correct someone, don't be arrogant. We are all in need of God's loving correction.

We should journey together to a deeper understanding of our shared faith

"Remove the wooden beam from your eye first; then you will see clearly to remove the splinter from your brother's eye" (Mt 7:5)

**comforting 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.

Lend a listening ear to those going through a tough time

Make a home cooked meal for a friend who is facing a difficult time

Write a letter or send a card to someone who is suffering

A few moments of your day may make a lifetime of difference to someone who is going through a difficult time

**forgiving injuries**

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

Let go of grudges

Saying sorry is something we learn as kids, but how often do we really mean it? Forgiveness transforms hearts and lives

Participate in the Sacrament of Penance

Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet

**bearing 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.

Frustrated with someone? Step away from the situation, take a few deep breaths, pray the Our Father, asking God for patience

**praying 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 entrusts us all into God's care.Parishioners pray the rosary near Mater Misericordiae (Mother of Mercy) Mission in Phoenix after a priest was killed and another critically injured during an attack at the mission in June 2014. CNS photo/Nancy Wiechec

Request a mass intention for a friend or family member who is going through a tough time

Request a mass intention for a friend or family member who has passed away

Keep your own book of prayer intentions, writing down the names of those who you are keeping in your prayers

Ask a friend or family member if there is anything you can pray for them about

Through prayer, entrust your cares and concerns for those around you to God

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Homework for 1/30/22 **Due Sunday, 2/6**

Please answer questions 1 and 2; 3 is optional (but would be helpful in planning our discussions with you!)

1. If we look at Jesus on the Cross, what does that tell us about the kind of love God has for us and what love looks like? If love entails sacrifice, what does this say about your works of service for others?
2. Pick one of the service activities you have done so far this year and write it down here:

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Answer the following about doing that service:

* By doing this service, I showed Christian love because:
* By doing this service, I learned that Christian service means:
* Doing this service helped me how/because:
1. What questions or doubts do you have about the faith? As we approach Confirmation, where you say you are “all in” with the Church, what do you still wonder about?