

## Catholics: Why Do We Serve?

There are many reasons why people serve. Some people serve because it is a civic responsibility. Others serve because it makes them feel good. As Catholics, we serve because by serving others we love and serve God.

Through His teaching and His example, Jesus shows us that we love and serve God by loving and serving each other. In the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats Jesus explains how we love God by serving His people:

*For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, <sup>36</sup> I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'*

<sup>37</sup> *"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? <sup>38</sup> When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? <sup>39</sup> When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'*

<sup>40</sup> *"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' Matthew 25: 35-40*

When we care for others, we care for Christ Himself.



# Works of Mercy

In order to help us follow the teachings of Jesus, the Church defines **The Works of Mercy**, acts of kindness that we should perform as followers of Jesus:

## Corporal Works of Mercy:

**7 acts of kindness by which we help our neighbors with material and physical needs.**

- These acts recognize the sacredness of human life. By fulfilling these Works of Mercy for others, we learn that we are our neighbor's keeper. Our feelings of love for our brothers and sisters must be accompanied by acts of charity.
  1. To feed the hungry
  2. To give drink to the thirsty
  3. To clothe the naked
  4. To shelter the homeless
  5. To visit the sick
  6. To visit those who are in prison
  7. To bury the dead

## Spiritual Works of Mercy:

**7 acts of compassion by which we help our neighbors with emotional and spiritual needs.**

- These acts recognize sin, ignorance, doubt, sorrow and other human conditions where we need to reach out in faith and love to others.
  1. To instruct the ignorant
  2. To counsel the doubtful
  3. To admonish the sinners
  4. To bear wrongs patiently
  5. To forgive offenses willingly
  6. To comfort the afflicted
  7. To pray for the living and the dead

