

The Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy

The Corporal Works of Mercy have to do with taking care of peoples' bodies (corpus is 'body' in Latin.) The Spiritual Works of Mercy have to do with taking care of people's souls or spirits. The Corporal Works of Mercy come from Matthew 25, where Jesus reminds us that "Whatever you do for the least of my brothers and sisters, you do for me." When we take care of the poor, the homeless, the hungry, we are caring for the Body of Christ.

Corporal Works of Mercy

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

Spiritual Works of Mercy

Admonish the sinner
Instruct the ignorant
Counsel the doubtful
Comfort the sorrowful
Bear wrongs patiently.
Forgive all injuries
Pray for the living and the dead