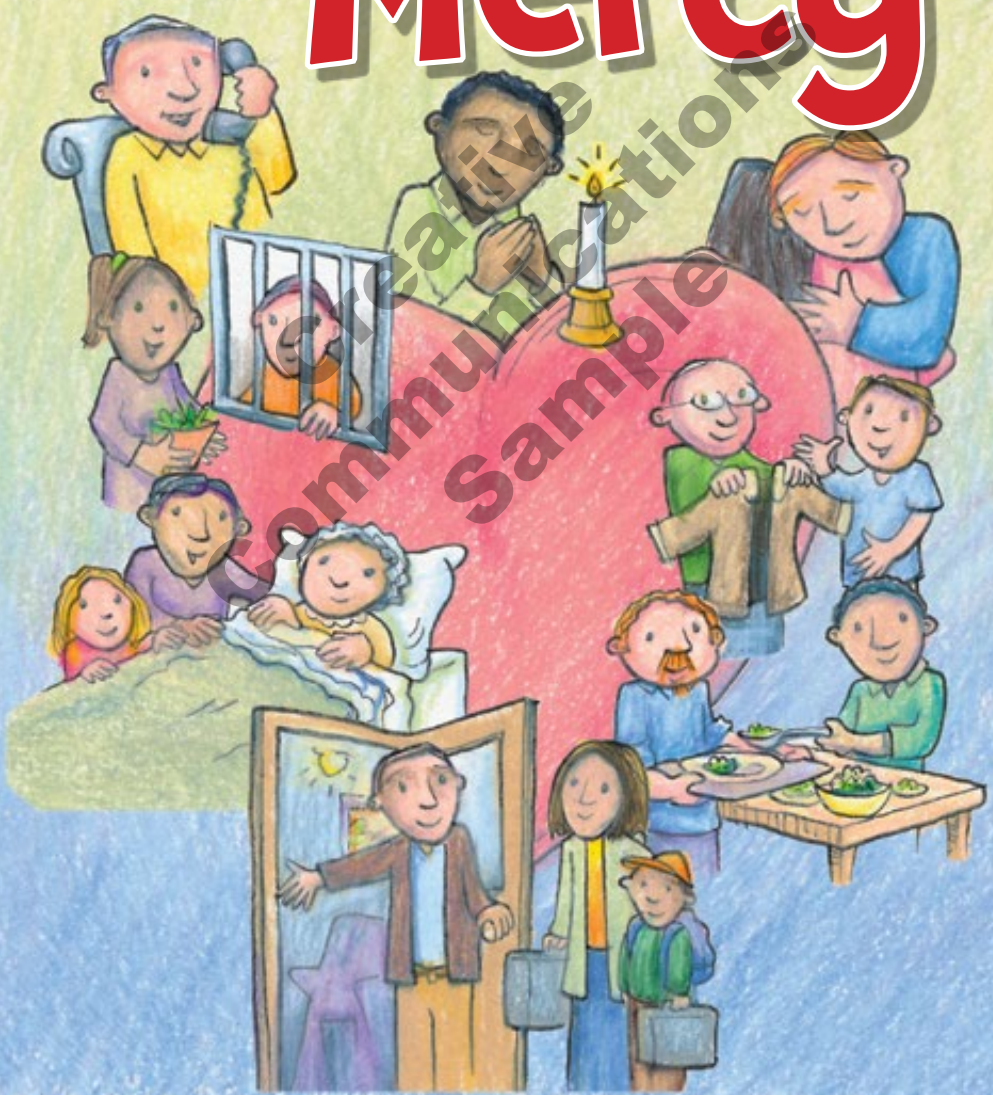


Learning about the

Works of Mercy



Get moving with Works of Mercy

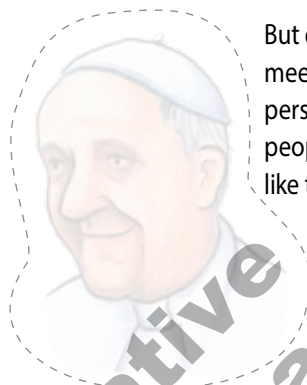
What would you do if you found out that Jesus was coming over to your house today? Would you welcome him and make him comfortable? Offer him something tasty to eat? Of course you'd be happy to do that for Jesus. Who wouldn't? We love Jesus, and we know he loves us.

A little mercy makes the world less cold and more just.

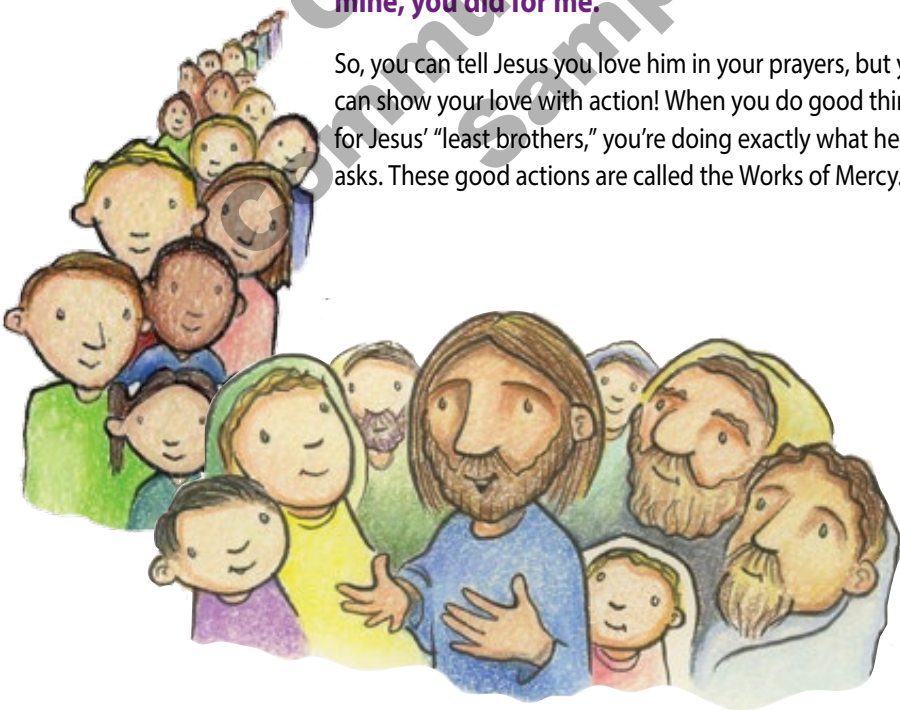
—Pope Francis

each of us—rich, poor, old, young, sick and well—is Jesus. When we welcome people and treat them with kindness, love and respect, we remember what Jesus says in the Bible: **“Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.”**

But did you know that you meet Jesus every day, in every person you see? Sure, most people probably don't look like the pictures you've seen of Jesus. But Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, who cared for the poor and sick, used to say that everyone is “Jesus in disguise.” And it's true that



So, you can tell Jesus you love him in your prayers, but you can show your love with action! When you do good things for Jesus' “least brothers,” you're doing exactly what he asks. These good actions are called the Works of Mercy.



It's up to you!

So who are these least brothers and sisters, and what do we need to do for them? Here's how Our Lord explains it:

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me (Matthew 25:35-37).



When you help others with physical needs like food and clothing, you're performing the **Corporal Works of Mercy**: (Place the stickers below.)

Some people can have more than enough food and clothing and still be miserable. They might not know how much God loves them. They might not know how to share or pray. It's up to each of us to help them get to know God so they can have lasting happiness in heaven. When you help others take care of their souls, you perform the **Spiritual Works of Mercy**: (Place the stickers below.)

Wondering where to begin? Start by thinking about how much you've been given. It's a lot easier to give to others when you realize how many blessings you have. (And you have lots to be thankful for, even if you don't realize it!)



Feed the hungry

Okay, you know how to do this one, right? Next time there's a food drive, you'll bring a can of corn or a box of pasta. But hey, not so fast. Remember the story of the boy who gave Jesus his bread and fish so Jesus could feed the crowd? That was one of Jesus' most famous miracles, and it was thanks in part to a kid who shared what he had.



Today, a much bigger crowd of people needs food. More than 800 million people don't have enough to eat. That's more than twice the number of people who live in the United States. But it's possible to feed everyone, and just like the boy who helped Jesus, you can help. Start with that can of corn and box of pasta, but keep going. For starters, learn about world hunger from Catholic Relief Services (CRS). Visit www.crs.org. Here are other ways you can make a difference:

- Give to CRS' Operation Rice Bowl during Lent.
- Share your lunch with someone who doesn't have one.
- If you see someone begging, ask your parents if you can stop and give some spare change, a snack or even a grocery gift card if you have one.
- Volunteer with your family at a food bank.
- Talk to your family about inviting another family to dinner—maybe someone who is out of work.
- Help make dinner tonight, or clean up afterwards.
- Learn about where your food comes from, and pray for the people who bring it to you.



Give drink to the thirsty

You know you're supposed to drink eight glasses of water every day, right? You might not gulp down that much today, but chances are pretty good it won't cause you too much suffering. Yet kids around the world suffer terribly from lack of water. Every day, more than 2,000 children die from diseases caused by unsafe water. And more than 783 million people around the world suffer because they don't have access to clean water.

How does this happen? Well, in some countries, wars and natural disasters have damaged pipes and wells so people can't get to water sources. Other places don't receive nearly enough rainfall to support crops and animals. Millions of families have no running water, so women and kids walk many miles every day to get water. Then they lug heavy water containers home.

On the other hand, the average **American uses 80 to 100 gallons of water every day**. Many of us take water for granted. Jesus wants us to give water to the thirsty. Here are some ways you can do that:

- Start a lemonade stand and donate your earnings to Catholic Relief Services for water programs.
- Give athletes and runners water at a charity race.
- Take shorter showers—a ten minute shower uses about 80 gallons of water. You can get just as clean in five minutes, saving 40 gallons of precious water.
- Start a school campaign to help others learn about the global water crisis.



Learning about the Works of Mercy

Do you like action movies? Would you rather move around, jump and play instead of sitting around? If so, then you're going to like learning about the Works of Mercy. They're all about action! They're ways to

make your faith something you do. Most of all, the Works of Mercy are ways you can show Jesus how much you love him. This little booklet is packed with fun activities, stickers, ideas and tips to help you learn about the Works of Mercy and put them into action!

Other Living Faith Sticker Books



Parents & teachers...

to order the *Living Faith Kids* quarterly resource, visit

livingfaithkids.com

LIVING FAITH  Kids

Learning About the Works of Mercy was written by Connie Clark. © 2015 Creative Communications for the Parish, 1564 Fencorp Drive, Fenton, MO 63026. 800-325-9414. www.creativecommunications.com. Illustrations by Jim Burrows. All rights reserved. Printed in the USA.

SCX



Learning about the **Works of Mercy**

2



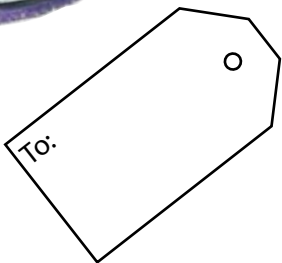
4



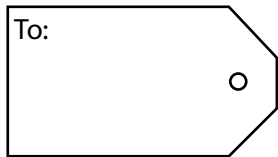
5



13



To:



3

Feed the hungry **Give drink to the thirsty**
Clothe the poor **Shelter the homeless**
Bury the dead **Visit the sick and imprisoned**
Teach about God's love **Help others do what is right**
Comfort the suffering **Be patient with everyone**
Pray for the living and the dead **Forgive wrongs**

7



11



8



9



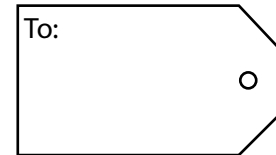
10



12



13



14

