



JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY – JUNE 2016
DISCOVERING WAYS TO LIVE THE YEAR OF MERCY

Summer with God

Now that we're halfway through the Year of Mercy, it would be a good idea to have an honest gut-check and ask yourself: "How am I doing?" Does your life feel any more mercy full? Can you name one or two concrete instances in which you either extended or received mercy in a significant, lasting way?

Now the summer vacations are upon us! Whether your summer is filled to the brim with work, activities, and trips or if your summer has no real direction at the moment, God has a challenge for each of us. We need to take some time to do something for someone else by performing corporal works of mercy. The corporal works of mercy come to us from Matthew 25:34-40, where Jesus tells us that whatever you did to the least of these, you did it to Him. As Pope Francis said, "True power is service. The Pope must serve all people, especially the poor, the weak, the vulnerable." If he can do it, so can you!

We can preform the corporal works of mercy in a very simple way:

Make sandwiches and pass them out to the homeless; Keep granola bars in your car to pass out to people in need at stoplights; Pick up leftovers at a local grocery store, bakery, or restaurant and deliver them to a food bank or homeless shelter; Take a friend out to lunch, your treat; Keep a list of local food banks and soup kitchens on hand to pass out to those you encounter around your town who could use such services; Volunteer at a food bank; Serve at a soup kitchen; Prepare and take a meal to someone in your community who is seriously ill or welcoming home a newborn; Pass out water bottles to the homeless; Pay for the coffee of the person behind you at a coffee shop; Take a cold glass of water to a neighbor doing yard work; Donate baby formula to a local pregnancy help center; Work a drink station at a local charity race; Go through your closet and give away what you don't need; Host a clothing drive and donate the items; Knit, crochet, or sew baby blankets for your local pregnancy help center; Volunteer to do manual labor to help in the upkeep of a homeless shelter; Become a mentor to a foster child; Send a care package with special treats to an orphanage; Help a family working towards adoption by hosting a fundraiser for them; Volunteer at a hospital; Volunteer to call Bingo at a nursing home; Send flowers or a card to someone you know who is in the hospital; Visit a seriously or terminally ill member of your parish; Donate bibles and/or spiritual reading materials to a needy person; Attend wakes and/or funerals of those you knew.

Our Prayer for the summer season: May we walk with You, o, Lord, this summer in whatever we do, wherever we go. Help us to walk with honesty and with courage, with respect and with love, with concern for the feeling of others, with mercy for other people, especially for those in need. Amen.

Our activities for the summer season:

God has a challenge for each of us. We need to take some time to do something for someone else by performing works of mercy!