

Living the Spiritual Works of Mercy

(Includes the 8th Spiritual Work of Mercy:
Care for Creation as declared by Pope Francis in 2016)

COMFORT THE SORROWFUL

Question:

Who is grieving in your ministry?

Response:

- Being aware of the needs of others
- Being open to being leaned upon in times of hurt and sadness
- Accepting of the reality of tragedy and sorrow

COUNSEL THE DOUBTFUL

Question:

What can you do to offer advice and support?

Response:

- Cultivating a hopeful heart
- Valuing listening and presence
- Affirming others whenever possible

INSTRUCT THE UNINFORMED

Question:

How does your ministry model Catholic values?

Response:

- Valuing education as an agent of transformation
- Respecting learning as a lifelong process
- Knowing who you are and what you believe and modelling this for others

ADMONISH THE SINNER

Question:

How do you see the good in another?

Response:

- Being a model of opposition to injustice, cruelty, greed and intolerance
- Embracing respect, honesty and integrity
- Avoiding situations of moral compromise

BEAR WRONGS PATIENTLY

Question:

How do you manage when things go wrong?

Response:

- Accepting mistakes as a normal part of life
- Looking for the positive in all situations and all people
- Refusing to take to heart the negative actions or opinions of others

FORGIVE OFFENCES WILLINGLY

Question:

How do you cultivate a forgiving heart?

Response:

- Giving others and self the room to make mistakes
- Valuing relationships
- Understanding the danger of nursing hurts and retribution thinking

PRAY FOR THE LIVING AND THE DEAD

Question:

How do you value prayer in your ministry?

Response:

- Being other-centred
- Heart-remembering and mindfulness
- Modelling the power of prayer

CARE FOR CREATION

Question:

How are you making good decisions to care for God's creation?

Response:

- Being open to God's teaching in each created thing
- Valuing the natural world and promoting ecological action
- Spending time in prayer and contemplation of Earth's beauty

How does your ministry respond to the Spiritual Works of Mercy? Create a list of responses based on the work of your ministry.