



Never Alone — Life with the Holy Spirit
Service Requirements for Confirmation
10th Grade

Service Reflection for Confirmation

[From Pope Francis's General Audience in St. Peter's Square on Wednesday, October 12, 2016:](#)

He, in return, taught his disciples: ***“Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful”*** (Lk 6:36). It is a responsibility that challenges the conscience and actions of every Christian. In fact, it is not enough to experience God’s mercy in one’s life; whoever receives it must also become a sign and instrument for others. Mercy, therefore, is not only reserved for particular moments, but it embraces our entire daily existence.

.....we will reflect on these works which the Church presents to us as the concrete way of living out mercy. Over the course of centuries, many simple people have put this into practice, giving their sincere witness of faith. The Church, after all, faithful to her Lord, nourishes a preferential love for the weakest. Often it is the people closest to us who need our help. We should not go out in search of some unknown business to accomplish. It is better to begin with the simplest, which the Lord tells us is the most urgent. In a world which, unfortunately, has been damaged by the virus of indifference, the works of mercy are the best antidote.

....The works of mercy reawaken in us the need, and the ability, to make the faith alive and active with charity.

What is Pope Francis calling us to do? How can MERCY embrace our entire daily existence? How can you make faith alive through service? How can you perform service when you need to social distance or stay home?

This year we would like you to practice the Spiritual Works of Mercy. In total there are 14 Works of Mercy; seven Corporal and seven Spiritual. The Corporal Works focus on taking care of other’s physical needs; feed the hungry, visit the sick, bury the dead etc. The Spiritual works focus on serving the needs of our and other’s souls.

This is what Pope Francis tells us about the Spiritual works of Mercy in that same [address on 10/12/2016](#):

There are also, however, **seven other works of mercy called “spiritual”**, which pertain to other equally important needs, especially today, because they touch the person’s soul, and often create the greatest suffering. We certainly remember a phrase which has entered into the common language: “Bear wrongs patiently”. And there are; there are troublesome people! It might seem like a minor thing which makes us smile, but instead contains a feeling of profound charity; it is the same for the other six [spiritual works of mercy], which are good to remember: counsel the doubtful, instruct the ignorant, admonish sinners, console the afflicted, pardon offences, pray to God for the living and the dead. These are daily things! “But I am afflicted...” — “But God will help you, I don’t have time...”. No! I stop myself, I listen, I give my time and console him; that is an act of mercy, and it is done not only to him, it is done to Jesus!

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?

This year we are requiring that you perform each of the seven Spiritual Works of Mercy one time. Once you have completed all seven, complete our online reflection form. You will need to write a few sentences about what you did for each of the seven Spiritual Works of Mercy and what you learned or what the impact was to the recipient. Please keep your own journal of your good deeds. This will make completing the online form easier. Additionally you will need to answer one final question: How can I incorporate the Spiritual Works of Mercy into my daily life after I receive the Sacrament of Confirmation?

The online Service Reflection Form must be submitted by February 1, 2021

The Seven Spiritual Works of Mercy:

1. Admonishing the Sinner

2. Instructing the Ignorant

3. Counseling the Doubtful

4. Comforting the Sorrowful

5. Bearing Wrongs Patiently

6. Forgiving All Injuries

7. Praying for the Living and the Dead

Here are some ideas:

- Send cards/letters to people who may not be able to get out as much and may be lonely
- Teach younger siblings or cousins your favorite prayers or bible stories
- Pray a rosary for friends, family or others (living or deceased) who may need your prayers
- Set up a prayer garden or prayer space in your home for you and your family members
- Organize a family movie night to watch a movie or other show on FORMED
- Invite someone to Mass

Spiritual Works of Mercy Online Resources for more ideas (in no particular order):

[Serving the Spirit of Others: Spiritual Works of Mercy](#) Ascensions Presents

[Spiritual Works of Mercy](#) - Catholic Central Video

[Rosary](#) - How to pray and many more resources

[The Spiritual Works of Mercy](#)—The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)

[FORMED](#)—Online Catholic audio and video resource

[Corporal & Spiritual Works of Mercy](#) - Catholic Charities

[89 Practical Recommendations for the Spiritual Works of Mercy](#)—The National Catholic Register

[Spiritual Works of Mercy and Evangelization](#)—Paulist Evangelization Ministries—Scroll to the bottom of this page for links to more detailed information on each of the seven works