

Appendix 1c — Scriptural Foundations for Works of Mercy

“The *works of mercy* are charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbor in his spiritual and bodily necessities.” (2447) In the spiritual works of mercy, we tend to the soul or spirit of our neighbor. In the corporal works of mercy, we minister to people’s bodily needs.

The seven spiritual works of mercy are:

1. Counsel the doubtful.
2. Instruct the ignorant.
3. Admonish sinners.
4. Comfort the afflicted.
5. Forgive offenses.
6. Bear wrongs patiently.
7. Pray for the living and the dead.

The seven corporal works of mercy are:

1. Feed the hungry.
2. Give drink to the thirsty.
3. Clothe the naked.
4. Shelter the homeless.
5. Visit the sick.
6. Visit the imprisoned.
7. Bury the dead.

The most specific scriptural references for the corporal works of mercy are Matthew 25:31-46 and Tobit 1:17-18 and 4:5-11.

Regarding spiritual works of mercy, “their bases are the teaching of Christ and the practice of the Church since apostolic times.” (John A. Hardon, S.J., *Pocket Catholic Dictionary*, Image Books by Doubleday, 1985, p. 418.

The intent of this appendix is to provide needed reference material for eighth grade scripture objective #8.