

Things to do for the Year of Mercy

HERE ARE JUST A FEW WAYS YOU CAN
MARK THE YEAR OF MERCY.

- Make sandwiches and pass them out to the homeless.
- 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.
- Go through your closet and give away what you don't need.
- Host a clothing drive and donate the items.
- Volunteer to do manual labor to help in the upkeep of a homeless shelter.
- Become a mentor to a foster child.
- Volunteer at a hospital.
- Take the Eucharist to the homebound in your community.
- Lead a Bible study at a local prison.
- Mentor a teen at a juvenile correction center.
- Visit the cemetery and pray for the dead.
- Donate to ministries that offer free Catholic baptisms to those who are unable to afford one.
- The Holy Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life. "Go to Mass.
- Invite a family member or a friend to attend a faith formation opportunity with you at your parish.
- Give practical support — donate food, volunteer in a soup kitchen, make financial contributions — to help individuals served by Catholic Charities, the St. Vincent de Paul Society, a homeless shelter or the parish/community food pantry.

- Welcome a person you meet, as you would welcome Christ.
- Pray for a person who has died, pray for a friend who is grieving or pray outside abortion clinic.
- Forgive a person who has offended you.
- Pray for those who do not know the love and mercy of God.
- Gather friends and family members to donate baby clothes, formula, diapers, cribs and other items to a shared pregnancy center or to a family in need.
- Be courageous, and go to Confession. (Pope Francis, General Audience, Feb. 19, 2014.)
- Pray for the sick, homebound, elderly and dying.
- Give your time to serve those who are ill, homebound or dying.
- Donate clothes to a juvenile corrections facility, a half-way house, or another age-serving at-risk people.
- Pray for:
 - Those imprisoned around the world, especially for reasons of faith.
 - The conversion of sinners.
 - All who find themselves "imprisoned" by sin and various forms of addiction.
 - The children, spouses and family members of those who are incarcerated.
 - The souls in purgatory.