This summer, challenge yourself, friends and family to spread love and joy creating works of mercy!

Brainstorm with your friends/family to come up with ideas. You can post to social media using the hashtag #summerofmercy.

The Seven Corporal Works of Mercy!

- Feed the hungry
- Give drink to the thirsty
- Give alms to the poor
- Bury the dead
- Visit the sick
- Visit the prisoners
- Shelter the homeless
The Corporal Works of Mercy are found in the teachings of Jesus and give us a model on how we should treat others, as if we were Christ in disguise. They are “charitable actions by which we help our neighbors in their need.” Here are some ideas on how you can spread love and joy creating works of mercy!

**Feed the hungry**
- Donate to a food drive, soup kitchen or pantry
- Volunteer at a homeless shelter or soup kitchen
- Don’t waste food
- Collect food to donate for your birthday party instead of gifts
- Share your lunch or snacks with someone in your neighborhood that is hungry
- Give food to a homeless person
- Pay for the person behind you in the drive through
- Set the table, do the dishes, or help cook dinner for your family
- Go shopping & deliver food to someone

**Give drink to the thirsty**
- Donate to help build wells for water for those in need
- Collect bottled water to distribute at a shelter for families
- Don’t waste water
- If you see someone that looks thirsty, get them a drink
- Donate water to shelters or in an emergency situation
- Offer to get drinks for your friends or family members
- Run a lemonade stand and donate the profits, or just give free drinks away
- Take extra water/drinks with you to a sporting event and share

**Shelter the homeless**
- Volunteer time at a homeless shelter
- Work on a Habitat for Humanity home as a family or group of friends
- Have a slumber party and make hand tied fleece blankets to donate
- Learn how to knit and make hats for the homeless
- Tie flannel blankets to donate
- Have a slumber party and make hand crafts to donate
- Help someone fix up their house
- Set up a family or group of friends to volunteer time at a homeless shelter
- Go to a sporting event and share
- Take extra water/drinks with you to a sporting event and share

**Visit the sick**
- Visit or spend time with someone in a nursing home, confined to their home or in a hospital
- Write a letter, send a card, bring a gift like pillows, games, books, etc. to someone who is sick or lonely
- Give blood
- Volunteer at a nursing home
- Visit with an elderly relative or neighbor
- Assist caregivers of chronically sick family members by giving them time off to rest, complete personal chores, or enjoy a relaxing break
- Make a meal, or send flowers for someone who is ill or has a sick loved one
- When baking, make extra and share with the elderly or sick in your neighborhood
- Pray for those involved when you see an accident, hear an ambulance or hear of someone who is ill
- Ask your priest or deacon to visit a person who is sick or make sure they are receiving Communion visits
- Help a sick person with their medicine or help pay their medical bills

**Support ministries that work with the displaced or refugees**
- Know where safe places are and tell people about them
- Help someone fix up their house
- Invite people you know to stay with you when they need a place to stay (traveling, buying a new house, in an emergency, foreign exchange student)
- Pay for a hotel room for someone who needs it, or help pay someone’s rent
- Donate new or gently used coats
- Clean out your closet and donate to an organization or a family you know
- Collect baby items for moms in need
- Have a garage sale and donate the money
- Donate to St. Vincent de Paul

**Visit the prisoners**
- Check to see if your parish, or a nearby parish, has a prison ministry and if so, get involved by drawing pictures or writing letters
- Encourage your priest or deacon to visit someone in prison
- Go and visit someone in prison or send care packages
- Volunteer to help out or donate to charities that give Christmas presents to children whose parents are in prison
- Pray for those incarcerated
- Pray for the families of those imprisoned

**Bury the dead**
- Attend funerals and visitations
- Grieve and show others support during difficult times
- Show respect for life, which is always a gift from God, and comfort to those who mourn
- Send cards and flowers to grieving families
- Make your own card and write a prayer
- Donate to a cause that is special to the family
- Make food for the family
- Visit a gravesite to pray
- Make prayer cards
- Send cards and flowers to grieving families
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**Give alms to the poor**
- Donate money to organizations that support and serve those in need
- Put money in the collection basket at church
- Find a charity that is meaningful to you and volunteer your time or donate to it
- Participate in fund-raisers of local organizations that help the poor

**Sources:**
- usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/new-evangelization/jubilee-of-mercy/the-corporal-works-of-mercy
- drive.google.com/file/d/0B5ETRkL51fhMSGVfVDBxZktxMjA/view

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