

## CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY

### WEEK #6: Visit the Sick

28<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time

**Readings:** 2 Kings 5:14-17 • 2 Timothy 2:8-13  
Luke 17:11-19

*“Rise and go; your faith has made you well.”*  
(Luke 17:17)

In this passage from Luke, Jesus cured the ten lepers who begged for healing from their disease. Each of us knows someone who is sick or suffers from an illness. During this week of mercy, we are especially invited to visit them, or to send a note of love, hope and encouragement. By showing compassion and love to the sick, we are bringing Jesus to them.



This is the sixth Works of Mercy week observed in the Archdiocese where all parishes focus upon a work of mercy during the week. Thus far, we have joined other parishes in focusing upon the following: give drink to the thirsty, visit the imprisoned, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and shelter the homeless.

#### **How can you or your family practice this corporal work of mercy?**

- Visit nursing home residents.
- Bring meals to ill family members and friends.
- Drive elderly folks to appointments and errands.
- Call, e-mail or send get-well cards to someone who is ill.
- Visit the sick or homebound.
- Volunteer at a hospital, Hospice or Meals-On-Wheels.
- Enter the names of the sick into our parish book of prayer.
- Study the Church's teaching on Healthcare as a human right.
- Recognize the responsibility to care for one's own health.
- Advocate to legislators to expand access to healthcare for the poor and vulnerable; including mental health care.
- Advocate for healthcare that protects the dignity of the human person, from conception to natural death (opposing Physician assisted suicide, embryonic stem cell research, abortion and supporting hospice and palliative care, adult stem cell research, and prenatal/postnatal healthcare).

#### **Volunteer Opportunities:**

- Hills & Dales: Residential Facility Children & Young Adults with Disabilities.  
1011 Davis St., Dubuque, IA • 563-556-7878
- Stonehill Care Center: Retirement and care community serving older adults.  
3485 Windsor Ave., Dubuque, IA • 563-557-7180
- Hospice of Dubuque: Offers assistance to those nearing death.  
1670 JFK Road, Dubuque, IA 52002 • 563-582-1220

**Issues Facing the Elderly:**

- Death of spouse and many friends.
- Children are busy with work and don't visit.
- Grandchildren are busy with school & activities.
- Physically weak may feel like they are a burden, so they shy away from others.
- Loneliness leads to depression – they feel alone and unproductive.

**How to be a good visitor:**

- Call ahead and be on time.
- Refrain from wearing strongly scented products.
- Do NOT visit if you are sick or have been recently exposed to illness.
- More frequent, short visits often work better than long, infrequent visits.

**Tips for visiting someone with Dementia:**

- Make eye contact.
- Speak slowly and use short sentences.
- Ask only one question at a time.
- Use the person's name frequently when talking with them.
- Do not correct the person.
- Do not bring up topics that upset them.

**Prayer for the Sick:**

God of goodness and love, hear our prayers for the sick members of our community and for all who are in need. Amid mental and physical suffering may they find consolation in your healing presence. Show your mercy as you close wounds, cure illness, make broken bodies whole and free downcast spirits. May these special people find lasting health and deliverance, and so join us in thanking you for all your gifts. We ask this through the Lord Jesus who healed those who believed. Amen.

**Prayer for Care-Givers:**

Loving Father and giver of all life, You are our support and you are always with us. Hear our prayers for all support workers who are on duty every day, caring for those who are suffering, those who are weak and in need of perpetual help. Blessed be the hands that have touched life and suffering, the hands that have embraced the sick with compassion, the hands that have released anger and fear. Blessed be the hands that have cleaned beds and disposed of wastes, the hands that have reached out and have been received, the hands that have comforted the dying and held the dead. And blessed be these hands to whom we commend all of the sick, the suffering and the aged. Give strength and courage to our caregivers to be instruments of your everlasting love for all those who are in need of your protection. We ask this in the name of Christ the Healer. Amen.

**Reminder:** if you or a loved one are having surgery and would like to be anointed, please contact Sr. Sharon Rezmer (563-583-9749), one of the priests, or the parish office.

**More information about the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy:**

Year of Mercy Message from Archbishop Jackels:

<https://www.dbqarch.org/yearofmercy/message-fromarchbishop-jackels/>

Archdiocesan Works of Mercy Projects, Activities, Media, Prayers, Music Resources and More:

<https://www.dbqarch.org/yearofmercy/>

Cathedral and St. Patrick's website:

[www.cathedralstpats.org/yearofmercy](http://www.cathedralstpats.org/yearofmercy)