



Monday, January 14, 2019

Dear young people who are preparing for confirmation,

Hello. I look forward to meeting you during your visits to the Cathedral. Even more, I anticipate with great joy the day of your confirmation! This is why I am writing to you with a special request in your journey of preparation for confirmation.

It is my hope that you will learn by heart and reflect on how to live today the seven corporal works of mercy and the seven spiritual works of mercy. The Holy Spirit is given to us to live the love of Christ in a powerful way as a testimony of His presence among us. And that must be seen!

The Catechism of the **Catholic** Church emphasizes the importance of the Works of **Mercy** (item 2447) and in Roman **Catholic** teachings, the **mercy** of God flows through the work of the Holy Spirit.

This mercy must truly touch the lives and hearts of others, especially those who need it most. In the tradition of the Catholic Church, fourteen very practical ways to live and share this love of Christ for the poor and suffering of our world have been identified. As you are confirmed, you will be full members of the Church. I ask you to take the time to think carefully and prayerfully in your preparation sessions, how you can live out these actions, these works of our Christian faith in response to the call of our baptism.

Learn them by heart, as much as possible, in order to have a list to guide you day by day as you walk with the Lord Jesus towards the kingdom of God, towards that better world that God wants.

Here is the list of the works of mercy:

What are the “Corporal Works of Mercy”?

The Corporal Works of Mercy are these kind acts, as listed below, by which we help our neighbours with their material and physical needs.

- ✓ *To feed the hungry*
- ✓ *Give drink to the thirsty*
- ✓ *Clothe the naked*
- ✓ *Shelter the homeless*
- ✓ *Visit the sick*
- ✓ *Visit the prisoners*
- ✓ *Bury the dead*

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What are the “Spiritual Works of Mercy”?

The Spiritual Works of Mercy are acts of compassion, as listed below, by which we help our neighbours with their emotional and spiritual needs.

- ✓ *To instruct the ignorant*
- ✓ *To counsel the doubtful*
- ✓ *Comfort the sorrowful*
- ✓ *Admonish the sinner*
- ✓ *Bear wrongs patiently*
- ✓ *Forgive all injuries*
- ✓ *Pray for the living and the dead*

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Sincerely in Christ,

+ Albert LeGatt

+Albert LeGatt
Archbishop of St. Boniface