

Work of Mercy Reflection Summary

Name _____ Date(s) of Service _____

1. Work of Mercy (see back for examples)

2. Where did you volunteer your time?

Name of Organization or Person: _____

Address: _____

Name of Person Supervising you: _____

3. How long did this last? _____

4. What were your responsibilities? Be specific.

5. How did your Work of Mercy make a difference in the lives of those you helped? How could you tell?

6. Why did you choose this Work of Mercy? Would you do this again? Why or Why not?

Works of Mercy Examples

Instruct the ignorant: Tutor someone and share your skills and knowledge • Give excess books and magazines to a senior center, school, library, or mail to an organization that distributes them to underprivileged nations.

Counsel the doubtful: Listen to friends when they have a problem • Write love notes to family members and hide them in their dresser drawers, lunch boxes, or coat pockets • Befriend a new classmate

Pray for the living and the dead: Offering Masses • Praying rosaries • Praying for intentions of others • Tell someone you love them

Admonish the sinner: Writing, speaking, witnessing for the faith. This work of mercy must be done in union with the following ones on patience, forgiveness, and comfort, because all correction must be given in charity and with sensitivity toward the feelings of the one being corrected

Comfort the sorrowful: Offering a shoulder to cry on, a listening ear, a hug, a pat on the back • Sending sympathy cards • Cleaning house, or running errands for shut ins or those suffering loss of loved ones • Go to a movie or the mall with a person who needs some cheering up • Share a funny comic strip or joke • Visit those in hospitals or nursing homes who have no visitors • Write a note of encouragement to someone who has received sad news

Forgive offenses willingly: Not only those done to us personally but also those done to others and done by those in authority, and relatives • Recommend someone you may see as a competitor

Bear wrongs patiently: Help someone find something lost • Give a gift of flowers or a plant to someone who rubs you the wrong way (you might even do it secretly); • Listen attentively when someone is speaking to you even if you do not want to hear what they are saying.

Give food to the hungry: Make a meal for your family • Soup kitchen work • Donating to and working in food pantries • Invite those who live alone for a meal including holiday meals • Leave a muffin or cookies for your garbage collector, paper carrier, teacher, police or fire station, or mail delivery person • Help folks load their groceries into their cars

Give drink to the thirsty: All of those listed under Feed the hungry as well as donating beverages to social gatherings • Working for clean water law • Bring a cool drink to someone on a hot day.

Clothe the naked: Donating used clothing • Conducting clothing drives • Share clothes willingly with a sibling

Shelter the homeless: Working in and supporting homeless shelters • Housecleaning • Yard work/snow removal • Plant trees and flowers.

Bury the dead: Putting past offenses to rest • Aid of any sort to survivors • Attend a funeral

Ransom the captive: Offer to help someone who needs time off • Babysitting for free • Helping a teacher, parent or neighbor so they can relax • Reporting abuse • Working for peace • Clean up graffiti • Offer to write letters for someone who can't.

Comfort the sick: Visiting by phone call, letter, email, or in person those in hospitals • Become a voluntary companion for an elderly person • Share musical or story telling talents with the elderly • Offer to babysit for someone who is sick • Do chores for the homebound.