

Works of Mercy and Catholic Social Teaching Themes for Service Project Requirement

1. **Works of Mercy: Feed the Poor || CST: Option for the poor and vulnerable**

There are many people in this world who go without food. When so much of our food goes to waste, consider how good stewardship practices of your own food habits can benefit others who do not have those same resources.

- Food Pantries
 - Greater Chicago Food Depositories
 - Catholic Charities
- Soup Kitchens

2. **Works of Mercy: Give drink to the thirsty**

Many of our brothers and sisters in Christ do not have access to clean water and suffer from the lack of this necessity. We should support the efforts of those working towards greater accessibility of this essential resource.

- Volunteer for mission trips that provide drinking
- Volunteer at approved charitable running events (you must note the reason of the organization's fundraising\ why are they raising money?, ie. Our Lady of the Angels fundraises for their Mission (providing assistance to all in the neighborhood))

3. **Works of Mercy: Clothe the Naked (Shelter the Homeless)**

Many circumstances could lead to someone becoming a person without a home. Christ encourages us to go out and meet those without homes, affirming their worth and helping them seek a resolution to the challenges they face.

4. **Works of Mercy: Bury the dead**

Funerals give us the opportunity to grieve and show others support during difficult times. Through our prayers and actions during these times we show our respect for life, which is always a gift from God, and comfort to those who mourn.

- U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs: Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery

5. **Works of Mercy: Care for creation || CST: Care for God's Creation**

We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation. This environmental challenge has fundamental moral and ethical dimensions that cannot be ignored.

6. **Works of Mercy: Visit the imprisoned**

People in prison are still people, made in the image and likeness of God. No matter what someone has done, they deserve the opportunity to hear the Word of God and find the Truth of the message of Christ.

7. **Works of Mercy: Heal the sick**

Those who are sick are often forgotten or avoided. In spite of their illness, these individuals still have much to offer to those who take the time to visit and comfort them

8. **Works of Mercy: Instruct the Ignorant**

To instruct the ignorant in this way requires a life of witness; it requires that we radiate the love, peace, and joy that Christ has lavished upon us—and only in this way can we authentically communicate it to others.

9. **Catholic Social Teaching: Life and dignity of the human person**

We believe that every person is precious, that people are more important than things, and that the measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity of the human person.

10. **Catholic Social Teaching: Call to family, community, and participation**

We believe people have a right and a duty to participate in society, seeking together the common good and wellbeing of all, especially the poor and vulnerable.

11. **Catholic Social Teaching: Rights and responsibilities**

The Catholic tradition teaches that human dignity can be protected and a healthy community can be achieved only if human rights are protected and responsibilities are met. Therefore, every person has a fundamental right to life and a right to those things required for human decency. Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities—to one another, to our families, and to the larger society

12. **Catholic Social Teaching: Solidarity**

We are one human family whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. At the core of the virtue of solidarity is the pursuit of justice and peace. Blessed Pope Paul VI taught that "if you want peace, work for justice." 1 The Gospel calls us to be peacemakers. Our love for all our sisters and brothers demands that we promote peace in a world surrounded by violence and conflict.

13. **Catholic Social Teaching: Dignity of work and workers' rights**

If the dignity of work is to be protected, then the basic rights of workers must be respected—the right to productive work, to decent and fair wages, to the organization and joining of unions, to private property, and to economic initiative.