

Works of Mercy

Corporal (for the body)	Spiritual (for the spirit)
Feed the hungry.	Warn the sinner.
Give drink to the thirsty.	Teach the ignorant.
Clothe the naked.	Counsel the doubtful.
Shelter the homeless.	Comfort the sorrowful.
Visit the sick.	Bear wrongs patiently.
Visit the imprisoned.	Forgive injuries.
Bury the dead.	Pray for the living and the dead.

Grade 6 - Chapter 19

Discover

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Discover

Catechist Edition Instruction

Discover (1)

Objectives

- Identify the Communion of Saints as including all holy persons, both living and dead
- Define Purgatory as a state of final cleansing after death and before entering into Heaven

The Church Community

Ask: What is the Communion of Saints?

- Allow a volunteer to list the children's responses on the board or on chart paper.
- Tell the children they will learn whether or not their answers are correct as the group covers the content on the next two pages.

Read aloud the first two paragraphs as an introduction to the Scripture passage.

Scripture

Have a volunteer proclaim the Scripture.

- Discuss with the group some of the things the members of the early Christian community were devoted to doing together.

Work with Words

If time permits, review all four Catholic Faith words and their definitions with the children.

- Allow group discussion if anyone has questions.

All the Faithful

Invite the children to silently read the text and to look for ways in which believers are united.

► Music Option: While the children read, play “Litany of Saints,” downloaded from aliveinchrist.osv.com.

★ Ask the children to underline what we mean by *Communion of Saints*.

- Have a volunteer explain which believers are honored on All Saints Day. ***all those who are with God in Heaven***
- Ask another volunteer to state which believers are prayed for on All Souls Day. ***those in Purgatory***
- Invite the children to share stories on family members who have died.

To extend the lesson, have the children turn to page 310 in the Our Catholic Tradition section of the Student Book to read the section on Life after Death.

Activity

Read aloud the directions.

- Group the children in pairs.
- Have the children write their responses in their books.

Quick Review

The Communion of Saints includes the pilgrim Church on Earth, those being purified in Purgatory, and the blessed already in Heaven. Purgatory is a state of final cleansing after death that helps the soul prepare for life with God.

Discover (2)

Objectives

- Explore the Spiritual Works of Mercy, the actions by which we address the needs of heart, mind, and soul
- Discover intercessory prayer and personal reflection as a means of growing in holiness

Charity and Prayer

Encourage the children to think about what charity and prayer have to do with the Communion of Saints as you cover the next two pages.

Ask two volunteers to read aloud the first two paragraphs in this section.

- Ask other members of the group to provide examples of acts of charity they have participated in. Read aloud the remaining text, emphasizing the importance of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick in meeting the physical and spiritual needs of Church members.

Intercessory Prayer

Have the children silently read the text.

► Music Option: While the children read, play “Around Your Throne,” downloaded from aliveinchrist.osv.com.

- Brainstorm people or causes to include in the children's intercessory prayers. ***Possible ideas: people who are sick, Church and government leaders, family and friends, unity in the***

Church

- List people and causes on the board or on chart paper.
- Ask: What way to pray feels most comfortable for you?
- Invite volunteers to respond.

Personal Prayer

Read aloud the two paragraphs.

- Ask the children to explain reflection as a method of personal prayer. ***you think about God, and use your mind, your imagination, and your emotions to listen to what he has to say to you***

Activity

Read aloud the directions.

- Distribute blank index cards.
- Remind the children to refer to the brainstorming list for ideas.

Quick Review

Charity is the virtue that unites the Communion of Saints. Intercessory prayer and personal reflection help us grow stronger in our relationship with God.

Catechist Tips: Adaptive Learning Suggestions

Children who have **intellectual/developmental delays (such as autism)** may find it difficult to engage creatively in activities.

- Encourage the children to work in small groups and to demonstrate love by helping one another.
- Children with learning disabilities can contribute their ideas to the process and engage fully in the activity.

Catechist Tips: Spiritual Works of Mercy

The source for several of the Spiritual Works of Mercy is 1 Thessalonians 5:14.

- The author urges the Christians at Thessalonica to “admonish the idle, cheer the fainthearted, support the weak, be patient with all.”
- Tell the children that the Scriptures call us to do good to others.

Catechist Tips: Students with Writing Difficulties or Visually Impaired

Offer these Connect Your Faith activity alternatives to children with **writing or fine motor difficulties (such as dysgraphia)** or who are **blind or visually impaired**.

- Have the children record their prayers with a computer microphone or using a smart phone.
- Have each child work with a partner to dictate prayers.

Works of Mercy

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Glossary Activity: Spiritual Works of Mercy

To expand on the Spiritual Works of Mercy, have each child create a poster with the title “What the World Needs Now” and illustrate the poster with images of people who are living the Works.

- Have the children group the images according to the Spiritual Works of Mercy depicted.

Additional Activity: Friends

Have the children use the letters in the word *friend* to name the qualities of friendship. For example:

Faithful
Respectful
Interesting
Energetic
Nice
Determined

Additional Activity: Notes of Encouragement

The death or serious illness of a loved one can be intensely traumatic.

- You may wish to have the children write letters of friendly encouragement to people in the parish who have lost loved ones during the year.
- The children also may enjoy making cards for parishioners who are ill.

Additional Activity: Intercessory Prayer

Have the children research current local, national, or global situations about which the group could pray.

- Ask the children to write the information they find on index cards.
- Choose a different card each day, and have the group pray for God’s help in that situation.

Additional Activity: Memorial Page Book

Supplies:

- cardstock
- markers or crayons
- paper
- decorative art supplies

Have each of the children choose a deceased person who is special to them. It may be a family member, a famous public figure, a Saint, or someone else who has touched his or her life.

- Invite them to create a memorial page for that person that expresses what the person was like and how he or she has an influence on them today.
- Encourage the children's creativity by allowing them to use story, illustrations, words, phrases, or symbols.
- When they are finished, invite volunteers to share their pages.

Additional Activity: Prayer Survey

Supplies:

- copies of the My Prayer Life Survey Handout (one per child; [download here](#))
- pens or pencils

Distribute the survey. Invite the children into quiet reflection and have them fill out the survey. Tell them that it is for their own use and they will not be sharing it with the group.

Parish Video Connection: The Communion of Saints

Before beginning the Catechist Edition instruction on page 258, you may wish to share with the children this video of Pope Francis explaining the Communion of Saints.

Ask: How does it make you feel to know that as Catholics, we are part of a Communion of Saints, that includes us and everyone who has gone before us? Does it make you feel closer to those who are already in Heaven?

YouTube Link: <https://youtu.be/UOLYUWDa3rM>

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