

## **The works of mercy in the life of Jesus Christ's witnesses**

### **Summary**

The mystery of the cross and the victory of Jesus over what subjugates a human person is a challenge to a Christian who wants to emulate his master. Christ died for us out of love, and it is to love that He calls us. This kind of love is what we call merciful love.

An act of mercy is an act of love, which sympathizes, forgives, and hastens with help; draws from the example and the spring of mercy, which is always Jesus the Christ. The strength to act mercifully needs to be drawn from the springs of the Sacraments. The fundamental motive of an act of mercy should be a grateful love of Christ by man, for the mercy experienced from Christ. Every disciple of Jesus Christ should be visible sign of Divine mercy.

The works of mercy help in this mission. The works of mercy are charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbor in his spiritual and bodily necessities. Instructing, advising, consoling, comforting are spiritual works of mercy, as are forgiving and bearing wrongs patiently. The corporal works of mercy consist especially in feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned, and burying the dead. Among all these, giving alms to the poor is one of the chief witnesses to fraternal charity: it is also a work of justice pleasing to God (CCC 2447).