



Roots & Wings

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Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

As we know from the Old Testament, God continuously shows His mercy toward us, leading us from evil and hopelessness.



Mercy means the perception of an evil or misery which moves us to help and be compassionate toward others. It also refers to tenderness, kindness, and unconditional love. If we want God's mercy and forgiveness, we too must be merciful toward others. We are called to be forgiving, understanding and

quick to relieve other's suffering. To be merciful is to love others.

According to Kreeft (1992), the beatitude of giving mercy addresses the sin of avarice or greed. This sin

makes us self-centered. Not only does greed become a desire for money or things, these desires can become ends in themselves, channeling our mind, heart and energies away from God and others.

While greed focuses on taking or getting for ourselves, being merciful entails giving to others. Therefore, we are called to be merciful by feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, and welcoming the stranger. Being merciful is forgiving others instead of seeking revenge. As Christ taught us in the *Our Father*, we are called to forgive others' trespasses. We learn to be merciful through God's own mercy and ever generous love for us, and we receive His divine mercy when we extend it to others.

By: Laurie Liesen

Sources:

The Ladder of the Beatitudes by Jim Forest

Back to Virtue by Peter Kreeft

Corporal Works of Mercy

Feed the hungry

Give drink to the thirsty

Clothe the naked

Shelter the homeless

Visit the sick

Visit those in prison

Bury the dead

Spiritual Works of Mercy

Convert the sinner

Instruct the ignorant

Counsel the doubtful

Comfort the sorrowful

Bear wrongs patiently

Forgive injuries

Pray for the living and the dead

The IJP Catholic Life Committee and the Midwest Palliative & Hospice CareCenter are teaming up for

Easter Baskets for Seniors

We're looking for IJP families, clubs and organizations to adopt a senior citizen and provide items to fill Easter baskets.



The senior citizens involved are residents of nursing homes or hospice care centers. Some of the items needed could be: non-perishable food items, health and beauty items, homemade cards, etc. and the total cost would be between \$10-\$25 per basket.

Once you "adopt" your senior we'll give you specific ideas. Look for a flyer to come home with your child this week. If you have any questions contact: Mrs.

Wernicke or Mrs. Dull at school or Mrs. Carolyn Freeman.

How to Destroy Your Enemies

An Elderly woman asked Abe Lincoln, "How can you speak kindly of your enemies when you should rather destroy them?"

"Madam," he said, "do I not destroy them when I make them my friends?"

Carl Sandburg

Prayer for February

Our Father who art in heaven,

Hallowed be thy Name.

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done,

On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

And forgive us our trespasses

As we forgive those

Who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,

But deliver us from evil. Amen.



The Beatitudes

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven,

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great.

"There are two lasting bequests we can hope to give our children. One is roots, the other wings."

Hodding Carter II

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Lenten Projects Around IJP

Be sure to ask your child if they are participating in any of these meaningful Lenten projects around IJP:

*Rice Bowl

*Reconciliation

*Stations of the Cross

*Living Stations of the Cross

*Weekly Mass Attendance (Junior High)

*Mission Banks

*Hunger Banquet



The Hunger Banquet

The seventh and eighth students and the Quest teens have been invited to participate in *The Hunger Banquet* on Sunday, March 16 after the 5 PM Mass in the Church Hall. The banquet is a simulation of the inadequate distribution of food in our world.

Participants will represent various countries around the world and receive a meal that corresponds to that country's economic status. It is an opportunity for our youth to actively express one of the seven principles of social justice, "Solidarity for the poor around the world." Please see Mrs. Sweeney for any questions.

Movies that show mercy

Like Mike

Boys Town

The Bucket List

The Game Plan

The Ultimate Gift

The Butter Cream Gang

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

A Dog of Flanders

The Mighty Ducks

The Story Behind the Cross

Toothless

Any questions or comments about this publication or the material covered within, please contact Natalie Lamb of The Catholic Life Committee. Phone 708-748-3909 or seslam@ameritech.net.