

Sophie Meinhardt Memorial Scholarship 2016

Matthew Godbey

St. Jude

How do you live both the spiritual works and corporal works of mercy in your life? How has this enabled me to be more compassionate towards others?

I live spiritual and corporal works of mercy by just doing the right thing. I have learned this from my parents, my teachers, my friends, God, Jesus, The Holy Spirit and The Bible. In my life I think it is easier to do the spiritual works of mercy than the corporal works of mercy because the spiritual works are more automatic in my life. The corporal works are more physical acts and sometimes are harder to do.

I can feed the hungry by volunteering at a food pantry for example, but I feed the hungry by feeding them with joy because sometimes you can be drained of emotion. I can visit the sick. By just being there and helping the people who are sick that helps them pull through what they are going through. Sometimes being sick is physical and sometimes it's emotional. Sometimes being kind and Christlike to someone who doesn't have anywhere to sit at lunch, can affect them emotionally and help them feel good about themselves. You can also just help them out when they need it. These are the corporal works of mercy I do.

The spiritual works of mercy I do are when someone is doubtful on the decision they need to make, I helped them by just making sure they are doing the right thing. I admonish sinners by praying for them so they will just not do what they are going to do. I pray that they think twice before doing bad things. I can comfort the afflicted by praying that their suffering will stop and they can be happy in their lives. I can forgive offenses by just letting things go and forgive and forget. I can bear wrongs patiently by to not hold grudges on people. That's really hard to do sometimes. Also, when someone is trying to make you mad, just look at the bigger picture and think to yourself maybe God is teaching me a lesson. Sometimes you need to pay attention to really get what God is trying to tell you. I can pray for the living and the dead by going to the cemetery and praying for those who have fallen. My sister died when I was three. I don't remember her at all. We go every other week to pray with her at the cemetery. Sometimes we feel better when my family leaves and sometimes we don't. I try and comfort my mom when we leave because she is always sad. It's important for us to go see her and to pray for her to remember her life and also to grow as Christians.

The spiritual and the corporal works of mercy really help in life. It helps you strengthen your relationship with God. The spiritual and corporal works of mercy help me feel what other people are feeling in life. These are the ways I do the spiritual and corporal works of mercy in life.