



The Catholic Women's League of Canada

MEMO

DATE: May 31, 2025
FROM: Joline Belliveau, National Chairperson of Service
TO: Provincial Presidents and Secretaries
CC: National Officers
National Life Member Liaison

**Please forward this message to chairpersons of service
according to your provincial communications protocol.**

"Proclaim that mercy is the greatest attribute of God. All the works of my hands are crowned with mercy" (St. Maria Faustina).

Corporal works of mercy

- Feed the hungry (organize food drives for local food banks)
- Give drink to the thirsty (collect water and supplies for those in need)
- Support the unhoused (volunteer at shelters)
- Visit the sick (visit hospitals or nursing homes to provide comfort)
- Visiting prisoners (participate in programs that provide support and friendship for the imprisoned)
- Burial of the dead (assist families with burial costs)
- Giving alms to the poor (donate to charities that focus on the poor)

Spiritual works of mercy

- Instruct the ignorant (teach and guide those who seek knowledge)
- Counsel the doubtful (offer wisdom and encouragement to those struggling)
- Admonish the sinners (help others recognize and correct their mistakes)
- Bear wrongs patiently (show patience and understanding in difficult situations)
- Forgive offences willingly (let go of resentment and forgive)
- Comfort the afflicted (provide emotional and spiritual support to those in distress)
- Pray for the living and the dead (offer prayers for all souls)

The corporal works of mercy attend to the physical needs of others, while the spiritual works of mercy focus on spiritual well-being. Jesus showed the faithful the way through his thoughts and actions. “In a world which, unfortunately, has been damaged by the virus of indifference, the works of mercy are the best antidote” (Pope Francis). People fail to see in their daily lives how opportunities appear in which they can blend the acts of mercy. They can be so preoccupied with insignificant worries and fears that they miss what is in front of them. How much positive change would be seen in the world if every person did one act of mercy daily? What do people remember about St. Mother Teresa? They remember her gentle touch, her gentle smile.

Pope Francis also affirmed that Catholics should take care of creation—our common home—with mercy. Acts of mercy are often thought of as showing mercy and compassion towards others, but people should also take care of the environment with mercy, as this also harms others.

Jesus taught that serving others is a direct way of serving him. He emphasized that acts of kindness—like helping those in need, showing compassion and offering support—are more than good deeds; they reflect a deep spiritual connection. His words remind members that they fulfill a higher purpose when caring for others.

Here I am, Lord, send me.