



July Work of Mercy: Bury the Dead

This corporal work of mercy may seem obvious as most of us make sure that our relatives and friends have a proper funeral service. But we are called to be aware of the needs of those who are grieving and struggling to “bury their dead” emotionally. We need to help one another to truly bury our lost loved ones by letting go of them, entrusting them to the hands of our merciful Creator. That takes friendship—a patient friend that keeps on visiting the bereaved even when the grieving process takes many months or even years. This is a precious work of mercy: to help one another to emotionally “bury the dead.”

Ways to practice this corporal work of mercy:

- ✦ Being present at funerals to share the sorrow of one who lost a family member or friend
- ✦ Bringing food to the home of a grieving family
- ✦ Sending a note of condolence or having a Mass said in remembrance of the deceased
- ✦ Offering support in the weeks and months that follow a funeral
- ✦ Remember the anniversary of death dates by sending a card or note to family members
- ✦ Help an older person visit the cemetery
- ✦ Tell stories of deceased family members to keep their memory alive
- ✦ Volunteer in hospice or bereavement ministries