

Corporal Work of Mercy To Clothe the Naked

Catechism of the Catholic Church

“The works of mercy are charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbor in his spiritual and bodily necessities.²⁴¹ 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.²⁴² 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)

Sacred Scripture

“I was naked and you clothed me...” - Matthew 25:36

Practices to Foster growth in Clothing the Naked

- **Read a passage of Scripture that give examples of *Clothing the Naked*. Re-read the passage and pick a word or phrase that stood out for you.**
 - Matthew 25:36 *Tobit 4:16 *Ezekiel 18:16 *Isaiah 58:7
- **Pray Pope Francis’ Prayer for the Jubilee Year of Mercy.**

You are the visible face of the invisible Father, of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy: let the Church be your visible face in the world, its Lord risen and glorified. You willed that your ministers would also be clothed in weakness in order that they may feel compassion for those in ignorance and error: let everyone who approaches them feel sought after, loved, and forgiven by God. Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing, so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord, and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind. We ask this through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy, you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.

- **Catechetical Texts that speak to *Clothing the Naked*:**

“Let us rediscover these *corporal works of mercy*: to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, heal the sick, visit the imprisoned, and bury the dead. And let us not forget the *spiritual works of mercy*: to counsel the doubtful, instruct the ignorant, admonish sinners, comfort the afflicted, forgive offences, bear patiently those who do us ill, and pray for the living and the dead” (*Misericordiae Vultus*).

Clothe the Naked

St. Martin of Tours

Fast Facts:

Born	•~316 in Sabaria, Pannonia
Feast Day	•November 11
Canonized	•By popular acclamation since death. Pre-Congregation
Quote	•"Lord, if your people need me, I will not refuse the work. Your will be done."



His Life:

- In his early years, Martin's father, a military tribune, was transferred to Pavia in Italy.
- Following his father, when Martin reached adolescence he was enrolled in the Roman army due to recruiting laws at the time.
- Martin was attracted to Christianity since the conversion of Emperor Constantine.
- Soon after being stationed in Gaul, Martin was baptized, and shortly after that was freed from military service at Worms.
- As soon as his military service ended, he enrolled as a disciple of St. Hilary in Poitiers.
- After some time, Martin obtained permission in 361 to adopt a solitary life in a deserted region (now called Ligugé).
- A great number of monks soon followed him and the site would be developed into the Benedictine Ligugé Abbey, the oldest monastery known in Europe.
- In 371, Martin was acclaimed the Bishop of Tours.

- He soon withdrew from the city of Tours and established a monastery in Marmoutier, travelling once a year to visit the parishes under his bishopric.
- After a last visit to Rome, Martin was afflicted by a sickness that soon ended his life.
- Martin died in Candes-Saint-Martin, Gaul, in 397.

How is St. Martin of Tours a model for living out the Corporal Work of Mercy – To Clothe the naked?

The Legend of Martin's cloak is probably one of the most famous tales from the saint's life. Around the year of 337, Martin was stationed in Amiens, a settlement in Gaul (modern-day France). During a particularly cold winter day, Martin was riding through the city's gates, where he came upon a beggar who was wearing clothes so ragged that he was nearly naked. As soon as he met the man, he tore his military cloak in two and gave the man half of his cloak. That same night, Martin had a dream where Jesus appeared to him wearing the half of the cloak that he had given away. Jesus spoke to the angels and saints surrounding him, exclaiming, "Martin, who is still but a catechumen, clothed me with his robe." Soon after this event, Martin went to be baptized into the Catholic Faith.

Ask the Lord how he is calling you to live out the Corporal Work of Mercy, *To Clothe the Naked*