



# Spirit Renewal Ministries

*Transforming Lives - Renewing Communities*

## Corporate Prayer for 2023

### *The Divine Mercy of God*

*Love*

*Compassion*

*Forgiveness*

#### Ephesians 2: 4-5

But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us, saved us by grace.

#### Jude 1:21

Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.

#### Isaiah 54: 10

For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you,

and my covenant of peace shall not be removed, says the Lord, who has compassion on you.

#### Matthew 26: 28

For this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

#### Luke 24:47

Repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

*We are called by Jesus to undertake works of mercy: Then the righteous will answer Him, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You something to drink? And when did we see You as a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? And when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' ... 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it for one of the least of these brothers or sisters of Mine, you did it for Me.' Matthew: 25: 35-37. (Partial resource text, Divine Mercy Catholic Bible, RSV, Ascension, West Chester, Pennsylvania, 2001).*

### Prayer Guide - Corporal Works of Mercy - Tending to their Physical Needs

#### **January, 2023 Prayer Focus: Feed the Hungry / Give Drink to the Thirsty (Matthew 25:35)**

Over 700 million people in our world currently live in extreme poverty. Child malnutrition is the greatest contributor worldwide to child deaths before the age of five. **Action:** Support your local food bank. Scripture: .. for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink.

#### **February, 2023 Prayer Focus: Shelter the Homeless (Matthew 25:35)**

Nearly 600,000 Americans are unhoused on any night, and in Canada, more than 235,000 people experience homelessness in any given year, and 25,000 to 35,000 people may be experiencing homelessness on any given night. **Action:** Pray for the homeless and support your local homeless shelter or food bank. Pray for those who care for the homeless. Pray for widows and orphans.

#### **March, 2023 Prayer Focus: Visit Those in Prison (Matthew 25:36)**

Prison facilities in the USA hold ~ 2 million inmates, and in Canada, ~ 50,000 inmates are interred. **Action:** Donate books to the local prison libraries, write a letter to an inmate, pray for those incarcerated.

## Prayer Guide - Corporal Works of Mercy- Tending to their Physical Needs

### **April, 2023 Prayer Focus: Comfort the Sick (Matthew 25:36)**

Total annual health care costs in the USA are \$9.3 trillion with costs in Canada \$331 Billion. There is a huge demand for prayer and support for those who are sick and those providing health care services.

**Action:** Pray for those who are sick, in body, mind, and spirit. Believe in the power of prayer.

### **May, 2023 Prayer Focus: Bury the Dead / Counsel the Bereaved (Tobit 1:17)**

Each year, there are 3.4 million deaths in the USA and ~ 325,000 in Canada. **Action:** Pray for those who are dying - or those who have died, and for those involved in funeral and bereavement ministries.

## Prayer Guide - Spiritual Works of Mercy

God's mercy goes deeper than meeting our physical needs, important as they are. Works of mercy must be directed to the soul, where there could be serious forms of poverty which drain life's energy, joy, and sense of purpose. The first three spiritual works of mercy concern helping others see the truth, the last four works of mercy call us to pray for the needy, even those who have hurt us.

### **June, 2023 Prayer Focus: Admonish Sinners (2 Timothy 4:2)**

The Apostle Paul writing in 2 Timothy reminds people that those will have itching ears and accumulate teachers to suit their own desires and turn away from truth. **Action:** Preach the word; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction as Paul tells us.

### **July, 2023 Prayer Focus: Instruct the Uninformed (Mark 16:15)**

Jesus appeared to the eleven and upbraided them for their lack of faith and stubbornness, because they had not believed those who saw Jesus and Jesus had risen. **Action:** Jesus said to them, "Go into the whole world and proclaim the good news, the gospel. Pray for those who are sent and those who "go."

### **August, 2023 Prayer Focus: Counsel the Doubtful (John 14:27)**

The Gospel of John records the words of Jesus, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid." **Action:** Listen to those who need a sympathetic ear. Be present to family, friends, and neighbours. Acknowledge your limitations and seek other resources for those with spiritual doubts and worries.

### **September, 2023 Prayer Focus: Comfort the Sorrowful (Matthew 11:28)**

Jesus said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens and I will give you rest, Take my yoke upon you and you will learn from me; for I am gentle in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." **Action:** Pray for these who are sorrowful, care for those suffering, share a spirit of hope.

### **October, 2023 Prayer Focus: Bear Wrongs Patiently (Luke 6: 27-28)**

Luke records the words of Jesus encouraging us to "love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you." **Action:** Pray for the opportunity to be a channel of God's mercy and love to all people.

### **November, 2023 Prayer Focus: Forgive Offenses (Matthew 6: 12)**

The Lord teaches us, "forgive us our debts, and we have also forgiven our debtors." **Action:** Pray for the grace to forgive others.

### **December, 2023 Prayer Focus: Pray for the Living and the Dead (John 17:24)**

Jesus prayed, "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world." **Action:** Pray