



LOVE your Neighbor

Remember last month when we talked about how much God loves you? Well, if that's true of you, that is true of every other person around you: your family, your friends, your neighbors, even the people you don't like, even the people who do wrong. We are all created by God in His image and likeness, which means we all have a special dignity that can never be taken away no matter what we do or what is done to us. This is why we are told to love our neighbor, no matter who they are or what we think they've done.

We are all part of the Body of Christ. Together, we bring God into the world. To hate one person is, in a way, to hate the whole body and therefore Christ. To love one person is to love the whole body and so to love Jesus Christ. If we want to love the Creator, we must love His creation. Who is your neighbor? Better question... who isn't.

Developed with inspiration from The Evangelical Catholic, creators of The 10:10 Challenge. Used with permission.

Habit 5



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Works of Mercy

The spiritual and corporal works of mercy are two traditional lists of prayer and action that remind us what it looks like to love like Jesus did in the Scriptures. They challenge us to remember that Jesus always identified Himself with the lowly. As Edith Stein, Catholic convert and Saint who died in Auschwitz, was known for saying: *"God is always on the side of the suffering."*

Prayerfully review the following lists of the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. Think creatively: How can you bring Christ's love and mercy to the suffering this month by living out one or more of these actions?

Spiritual Works of Mercy

- Counsel the Doubtful
- Instruct the Ignorant
- Admonish the Sinner
- Comfort the Sorrowful
- Forgive Injuries
- Pray for the Living and the Dead
- Bear Wrongs Patiently

Corporal Works of Mercy

- Feed the Hungry
- Give Drink to the Thirsty
- Shelter the Homeless
- Visit the Sick
- Visit the Imprisoned
- Bury the Dead
- Give Alms to the Poor

See our *Mission, Vision, and Values Reflection Guide* to learn about **Our Value: Embrace Compassion** and find more inspiration: stdominic.net/mission-vision-values