

WORKS OF MERCY: Part II

Merciful love for others is not limited to caring for their bodily needs. Love for others also includes looking out for their spiritual welfare. The following is a list of the traditional Seven Spiritual Works of Mercy:

1. Admonish the sinner, *Proverbs 28:23*;
2. Instruct the ignorant, *1 Ezra 7 25*;
3. Counsel the doubtful, *1 Peter 3:15*;
4. Comfort the sorrowful, *2 Corinthians 1:4*;
5. Bear wrongs patiently, *1 Peter 2:23*;
6. Forgive all injuries, *Matt. 6:14*;
7. Pray for the living and the dead, *1 Timothy 2:1-2 & 2 Maccabees 12:38-46*.

We should be willing to do these things even if others may not appreciate what we do. The Abba St. Dorotheos said: “Do not require love from thy neighbor, for he who requires it is troubled if he does not encounter it; but it is better that thou thyself show love toward thy neighbor and, in this way, bring also thy neighbor to love.”