

Heavenly Clues Detective Camp - The Mystery of Mercy

Mission Statement

The Heavenly Clues Detective Camp - The Mystery of Mercy is a 5 day Catholic Kids Camp for ages 3 to 18 designed to take young persons through Christian Themes in Scripture and Tradition. This year, students will learn about the Works of Mercy and how these acts help to build a Christian way of life. Along the way, children will learn of the unity of scripture as found in the prefigurations of these acts in the Old Testament and the ways in which the Catholic Church carries them out even today.

CCC 2447: The works of mercy are charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbor in his spiritual and bodily necessities.²⁴² 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.²⁴³ 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:²⁴⁴

He who has two coats, let him share with him who has none and he who has food must do likewise.²⁴⁵ But give for alms those things which are within; and behold, everything is clean for you.²⁴⁶ If a brother or sister is ill-clad and in lack of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what does it profit?²⁴⁷

242 cf. Isaiah 58:6-7; Hebrews 13:3.

243 cf. Matthew 25:31-46.

244 cf. Tobit 4:5-11; Sirach 17:22; Matthew 6:2-4.

245 Luke 3:11.

246 Luke 11:41.

247 James 2:15-16; cf. 1 John 3:17.

Day 1 - Faith, the Source

Theme of the day: Faith in God gives us strength to be his workers in the world. By our faith, we can help others in their needs, ultimately helping them to become fellow workers for God. Faith must be lived out in good works of mercy.

Scriptural Sources: Gen 18:23-33, Exodus 16:12-18, Proverbs 21:3, Isaiah 58:6-7, Hosea 6:6, Hebrews 13:16, Matthew 22:35-40, James 1:27; 2:14-18

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Proposed Topics:

A) Old Testament:

- 1) The Patriarch Abraham's appeal to God's mercy for the few good people in Sodom and Gommorah (Gen:18:23-33).
- 2) God's caring for the Israelites in the Desert with manna, quail, and water (Ex 16:12-18)
- 3) The Old Testament Prophets, especially Isaiah (Is 58:6-7) and Hosea (Hos 6:6), and their message of caring for one's brothers and the poorest among us, especially widows and orphans.

B) New Testament

- 1) Christ's summary of the law in loving lord and neighbor (Matt 22:35-40).
- 2) St. James' appeals to faith being completed in works (Jm 1:27; 2:14-19)

C) Church History

- 1) St. Benedict of Nursia - Retreating from the world so as to bring Christ to the world
- 2) St. Francis de Sales - Promoting strong spiritual life with care for fellow man

Day 2 - Corporal Works

Theme: Love of neighbor demands that we care for his bodily needs. These activities are summarized in the seven corporal works of mercy (Feed the Hungry, Give Drink to the Thirsty, Clothe the Naked, Shelter the Homeless, Visit the Sick, Ransom the Captive, Bury the Dead).

Passages - Proverbs 22:9, Isaiah 55:1, Isaiah 58:10 Tobit 1:16-18, Matthew 25:31-46; 2 Corinthians 8:1-15

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Proposed Topics:

A) Old Testament:

- 1) Ruth caring for her mother in law and Boaz letting Ruth glean from his field (Ruth 2:1-13)
- 2) The righteous Tobit feeding the hungry and burying the dead (Tobit 1:16-18)

B) New Testament

- 1) Christ equating care for the poor with service to himself (Matt 25:31-46).
- 2) Witness of the early church's care for one another, in imitation of Christ (2 Cor 8:1-15)

C) Church History

- 1) Mother Teresa - Care for the Poor
- 2) St. Peter Claver - Care for Slaves
- 3) St. Peter Nolasco - Ransom of Captives
- 4) St. Marianne Cope - Care of the Sick

Day 3 - Spiritual Works

Theme: Love of neighbor demands that we care for the needs of his soul. These activities are summarized in the seven spiritual works of mercy (Admonish the Sinner, Instruct the Ignorant, Counsel the Doubtful, Bear Wrongs Patiently, Forgive Offenses Willingly, Comfort the Afflicted, Pray for the Living and the Dead). While the first three are to be practiced only in proper situations, the others are to be practiced by all unconditionally

Passages - Proverbs 27:18, 2 Maccabees 12:38-46, Luke 15:7, 2 Timothy 4:1-4, Matthew 5:38-48; 6:14-15; 28:19-20

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Proposed Topics:

A) Old Testament:

- 1) Nathan's Rebuke of David over the Bathsheba incident (2 Sam 12:1-13)
- 2) The witness of the wisdom tradition in instruction (Selection from Proverbs)
- 3) The Maccabees prayers for the souls of the slain (2 Macc 12:38-46)

B) New Testament

- 1) Christ's call to forgive one's brothers (Mat 18:21-22)
- 2) Christ's call to bear wrongs patiently (Matt 6:38-41)

C) Church History

- 1) St. Maria Goretti - Forgiving one's offenders
- 2) St. Andre Joseph Bessete - Comforting the Afflicted
- 3) St. Rose Philippine Duchesne - Prayer for the Living and the Dead

Day 4 - Mary, Woman

Theme: Mary best models a life devoted to the works of mercy. She performs the works of mercy, first in her son, Jesus Christ, then for all of the faithful, as our loving mother. She also gives us strength to perform these works, seeking to makes us ever more like her son.

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Passages: Proverbs 31:10-31, Luke 1:39-40; 1:56; 2:51-52, John 2:1-5; 19:26-7

Proposed Topics:

- 1) Mary as the fulfillment of the Good Wife (Prov 31:10-31)
- 2) Mary in her bearing, caring, and instructing of Jesus
- 3) Mary as woman to be cared for (Jn 19:26-7)
- 4) Mary's inspiration of the faithful to performs works of mercy
- 5) Mary's care for each of the faithful in their needs