



FrancisCorps
Young Adult Franciscan Volunteer Service Experience

February 1, 2016

Dear Friends:

During this Year of Mercy, Pope Francis' Lenten message encourages us to allow God's mercy to transform our hearts and enable us to become merciful ourselves. As you consider the different ways in which you might observe Lent, consider how your Lenten commitment of self-sacrifice might also be an act of mercy.

Here at FrancisCorps, the volunteers spend a year of their lives working to be a real and concrete sign of God's mercy in the lives of others. They are challenged to consider how this mercy affects those that they serve and how it is changing their own lives as well. During this season of Lent, we invite you to join us in being a sign of God's mercy. We have included some ideas on how you can perform works of mercy during this Lenten season and hope you find them useful and share them with your friends.

Also, if you decide to make a Lenten offering to FrancisCorps, know that we greatly appreciate the support. Your support helps enable the volunteers to continue their works of mercy throughout not only Lent, but the entire year and we are so incredibly grateful to have you walking along side us!

On behalf of all of us here at FrancisCorps and especially on behalf of the poor and marginalized whom we serve ... we wish you a Lent overflowing with the mercy of God.

Peace and All Good,

Friar Rick

Friar Rick Riccioli, OFM Conv.
Chaplain

A.J. LaPoint

A.J. LaPoint
Director

PRACTICING WORKS OF MERCY DURING LENT

HERE ARE A FEW IDEA FOR HOW TO SPREAD GOD'S MERCY THIS LENT...

- Try to not purchase more food than you are able to eat and work to not throw away any food during Lent. Make a donation whenever you have extra.
- Do the same with water. Try and limit your water usage to become more aware of how much you use. Consider making a donation to build wells where water is scarce.
- Spent some time each day knitting a blanket, hat, or gloves and donate them to a homeless shelter. While you are working on your project, pray for the person who will one day use your donation.
- Find a local blood drive and donate blood.
- Spend some time learning more about a complex issue revolving around the criminal justice system.
- Visit the cemetery and pray for those family members who have come before you. Try to learn about who they were in life by spending time with other family members who knew them.
- Create a family “alms pot” where individuals and the family together can donate towards a charity.
- Find an organization or individual with whom you can share your gifts and talents and volunteer your time doing so.
- Refrain from gossip and talking about other people behind their backs.
- Make a home cooked meal for a local family or friends who are experiencing difficult times.
- When resolving an argument, be the first to apologize. Don't wait for the other person to apologize first.