

250 Works of Mercy



United States
Conference of
Catholic Bishops



250 Works of Mercy during the 250th Anniversary of America

As the United States of America commemorates the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 2026, the U.S. bishops will consecrate the country to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. All Catholics are encouraged to join the bishops in praying for the unity and healing of our country.

One opportunity for parishes and individuals to participate is by contributing to a collective **250 Hours of Adoration and 250 Works of Mercy**. This resource provides examples for 250 Works of Mercy, and guidance for 250 Hours of Adoration is on the reverse side of this resource.

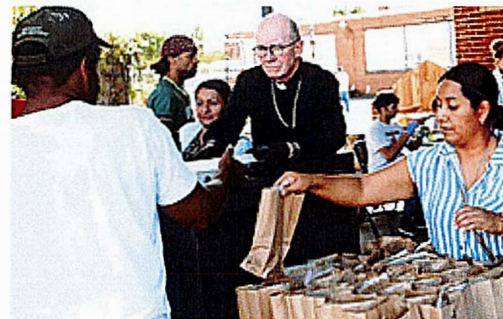
The seven Corporal Works of Mercy come to us directly from the Scriptures in the Gospel of Matthew. Rooted in our lives of faith, the actions that Jesus calls us to in feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, sheltering the homeless, visiting the sick and imprisoned, burying the dead, and giving alms are central elements of our Catholic identity. Pope Leo XIV instructs in *Dilexi te*, "As we contemplate Christ's love, 'we too are inspired to be more attentive to the sufferings and needs of others, and confirmed in our efforts to share in his work of liberation as instruments for the spread of his love'" (no. 2).

How to Participate

Individuals and groups can participate in 250 Works of Mercy by engaging in the existing activities and efforts of their parishes, getting involved in new ways, and by participating with local and national organizations on a weekly or monthly basis leading up to the July 4th anniversary. Our works of mercy draw from the deep well of our faith and prayer, constantly reminding us that in tending to our brothers and sisters, we tend to Christ himself. Afterwards, [report your community's participation here](#).

These works of mercy could take a variety of shapes, such as:

- Assisting women who face a crisis pregnancy
- Donating to food pantries and clothing closets
- Participating in a community beautification program
- Raising money for an overseas development project
- Sponsoring a refugee family
- Tutoring children
- Volunteering at homeless shelters



Organizations to get involved with in your local community include:

- [Local Catholic Charities agencies](#)
- [CRS chapters and clubs](#)
- [The Society of St. Vincent de Paul](#)

Find prayers to incorporate before or after the works of mercy at usccb.org/weholdthesetruths.