



Friends of Jesus and Mary

Cycle C - III Sunday of Lent

Exodus 3, 1-8a. 13-15; Psalm 102; 1 Corinthians 10, 1-6. 10-12; Luke 13, 1-9

The Barren Fig Tree

Some people told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with the blood of their sacrifices. Jesus said to them in reply, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way, they were greater sinners than all other Galileans? By no means! But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did! Or those eighteen people who were killed when the tower at Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than everyone else who lived in Jerusalem? By no means! But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!" And he told them this parable: "There once was a person who had a fig tree planted in his orchard, and when he came in search of fruit on it but found none, he said to the gardener, 'For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none. So cut it down. Why should it exhaust the soil?' He said to him in reply, 'Sir, leave it for this year also, and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it; it may bear fruit in the future. If not, you can cut it down.'"

Reflection

The gospel speaks of some Galileans that Pilate killed unjustifiably.

Did this happen because they were big sinners? (Jesus says no.

Suffering exists in the world because some people choose evil, like Pilate.

Other times we don't understand why, like in natural disasters, or in

sickness, but we trust in God and join our suffering to Jesus' cross so He

can save more souls.) **But Jesus wants our hearts to always be**

prepared to enter Heaven. He tells a parable, a story with a lesson

about a barren fig tree. What does the tree without fruit which the

owner wants to cut down symbolize? (A sinner who does not repent of

his sins and is in danger of dying to an eternity without Jesus.) **Who is**

the owner of the tree in the parable? (God) **Who is the gardener who**

asks the owner for one more year to work the soil to see if the tree

will give fruit? (Jesus who intercedes for us before God.) **Jesus loves us**

and wants to spend eternity with us. What happens when we repent

of our sins? (Our heart is filled with the Holy Spirit and we can give

fruits of good works, charity and mercy and spend eternity with Jesus, filled with peace, joy, and love.)

Activity

On the following page, place the number on the corner of the fig that corresponds to the Work of Mercy on the list.

Prayer

Jesus, give me the humility to repent of my sins. Fill my heart with your Holy Spirit of Love and Goodness.

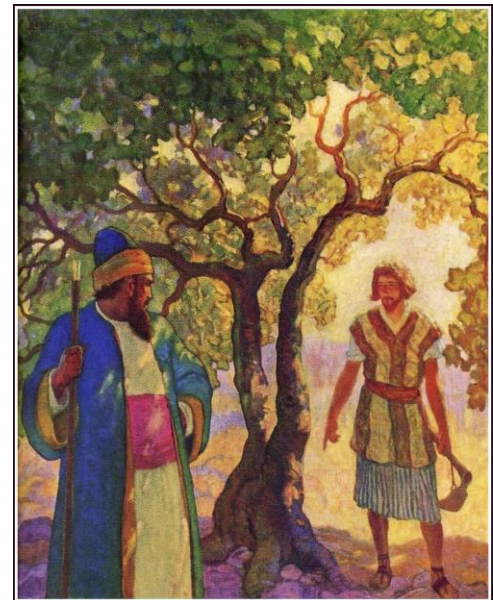
Make me sensitive to the needs of those around me that I may give witness of Your presence in the world.

Amen.

Song: Corporal Works of Mercy Song, Catholic Conundrum, (Ctrl Click) <https://youtu.be/8QGtMEv82k>

Spiritual Works of Mercy, Christine in Action, (Ctrl Click) <https://youtu.be/TYXng71uDXQ>

PPT: <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1x3jvOvLHMOKMKn1Jopf7wSlvcHrXOMYa/edit?usp=sharing&rtpof=true&sd=true>



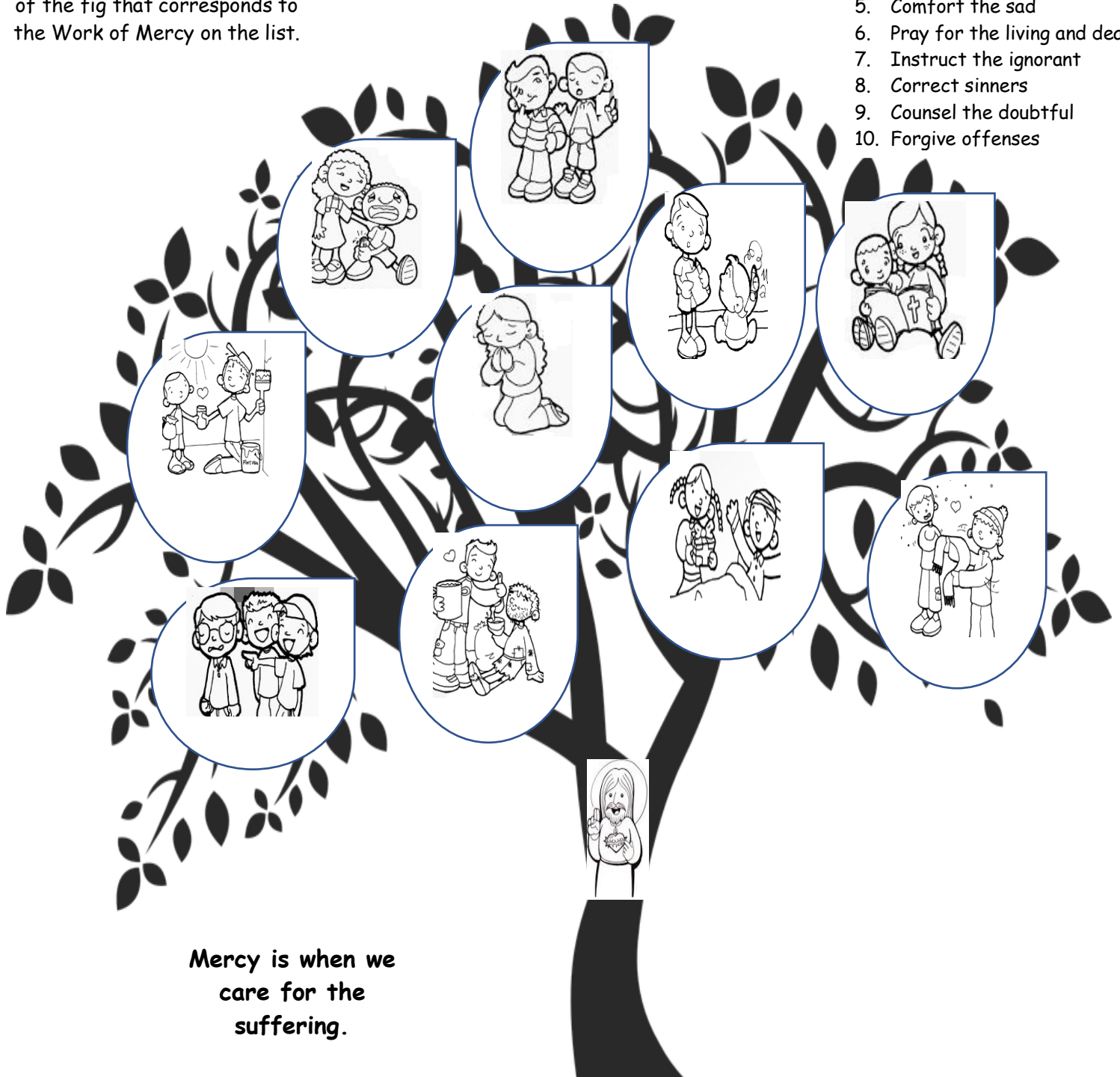


WE GIVE FRUIT FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD WHEN WE DO WORKS OF MERCY

Instructions:

Place the number on the corner of the fig that corresponds to the Work of Mercy on the list.

1. Give food to the hungry
2. Give drink to the thirsty
3. Visit the sick
4. Dress the naked
5. Comfort the sad
6. Pray for the living and dead
7. Instruct the ignorant
8. Correct sinners
9. Counsel the doubtful
10. Forgive offenses



**Mercy is when we
care for the
suffering.**