



Spiritual works of Mercy | Counsel the doubtful

SONG: Lead Me Lord – Gary Valenciano

VERSE 1:

Lead me Lord, lead me by the hand
And help me face the rising sun
Comfort me through all the pain
That life may bring
There's no other hope
That I can lean upon

VERSE 2:

Lead me Lord
Lead me all my life
Walk by me, walk by me across
The lonely road that I may face
Take my arms and let your hand
Show me the way
Show the way to live inside your heart
All my days, all my life

CHORUS:

You are my light
You're the lamp upon my feet
All the time my Lord
I need You there
You are my life
I cannot live alone
Let me stay
By Your guiding love
All through my life
Lead me Lord

SCRIPTURE: John 14: 15-31
The Promise of the Holy Spirit

PRAYER:

St. Therese of Liseux Prayer from "Story of A Soul"

May today there be peace within.
May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.
May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith.
May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you.
May you be content knowing you are a child of God.
Let this presence settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise, and love.
It is there for each and every one of us.

Prayer Stations



Tie knots in a piece of string to represent the things that get in the way of your relationship with God. Tie it to the cross. When you leave, take a new piece of string with no knots as a symbol that you have been renewed.

Get a piece of string tie a knot for every worry that you currently have. Read verses about worry, then pray, asking God to convict you of worry in your life. Then, you untie a knot as a symbol of letting it go, and ask God's forgiveness for worry.



GROUP ACTIVITY:

“Where does my faith lead me?”

Objective

- To create an awareness of what direction our faith is going in
- To reflect on how our faith is constantly changing
- To reflect on what we do to get our faith back on track

Materials

- X2 wooden spoons
- X2 wooden eggs or hard boiled eggs

For obstacles: (or you can use your own obstacles)

- Rubber chicken
- Plastic posts
- Ladder (rope)



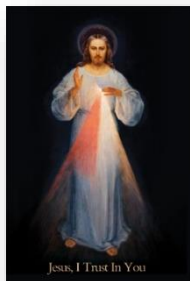
Dynamics

- Everyone splits off into two teams and lines up at the start of the obstacle course
- Each team selects one person to go through the obstacle course at a time (they each get a wooden spoon and egg to start off with)
- Individuals have to use the wooden spoons to get the egg from one end of the obstacle course to the other. While they are going through the course, if the egg touches any of the obstacles, the individual has to go back and start the course again.
- The first team with everyone to complete the course wins.

Reflection:

- Our faith is like the egg, it is not round or perfect. During the course we would have observed how the shape of the egg leads it off the path that we want it to follow. Our faith is much like that however, it is up to us to get it back on track. We might have questions about our faith, but at the end of the day we must ask ourselves- what are we doing to find out those answers?
- In this obstacle course the aim was to get the eggs back to the chicken on the other side of the course. Like this, our aim is to lead our faith back onto the right track and get closer to God.

TOOL: The Chaplet of Divine Mercy



What is Divine Mercy?

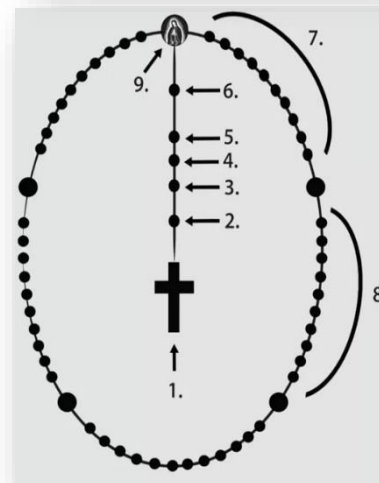
Through St. Faustina, God has given the world new channels for the outpouring of His grace. These new channels include the *Image of The Divine Mercy*, the *Feast of Mercy* (Divine Mercy Sunday), the *Chaplet*, the *Novena to The Divine Mercy*, and prayer at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, the *Hour of Great Mercy*.

The message of The Divine Mercy is simple. It is that God loves us – all of us. And, he wants us to recognize that His mercy is greater than our sins, so that we will call upon Him with trust, receive His mercy, and let it flow through us to others. Thus, all will come to share His joy.

Praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy:

The Chaplet of Divine Mercy is recited using ordinary rosary beads. It is preceded by two opening prayers from the Diary of St Faustina and followed by a closing prayer.

1. Make the sign of the cross.
2. Optional opening prayers:
You expired, Jesus but the source of life gushed forth for souls, and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty yourself out upon us.
(Repeat 3 times) *O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fountain of Mercy for us, I trust in You!*
3. Pray the Our Father.
4. Pray the Hail Mary.
5. Pray the Apostles' Creed.
6. Pray the Eternal Father:
Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.
7. On the ten small beads of each decade:
For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.
8. Repeat for the remaining decades
Saying the "Eternal Father" (6) on the "Our Father" bead and then 10 "For the sake of His sorrowful Passion" (7) on the following "Hail Mary" beads.
9. Holy God
(Repeat 3 times) *Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.*
10. Optional Closing Prayer:
Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion — inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself.



Spiritual Works of Mercy | Visit the imprisoned



- Who are the imprisoned in your community? Don't just think prisons... think elderly in rest homes, think children needing after-school activities. What activities can you do with these people eg a games afternoon for children or preparing crafts with the elderly.
- If you have a youth detention centre in your area that you can volunteer at? Examples of the ways to help could be preparing care kits (toothpaste, soap and deodorant), organise a book drive, making prayer cards.
- Are there groups in your community that help to keep the community safe? Examples might be neighbourhood watch groups, partnerships between police and community, Maori wardens active in the community. You might contact such a group and see how young people can assist with their work.
- Create a regular service programme with one community group and/or place that provides care eg a rest home, family refuge etc.



Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone. – Pope Francis

Check what our New Zealand Bishops have to say:

[Catholic bishops say reconciliation, not revenge, needed in prisons.](#)

Resources:

- Catholic Social Teaching on the preferential option for the poor: [Caritas Aotearoa](#) includes a video
- **I was in prison and you came to visit me** – a resource prepared by Auckland Catholic Youth Ministry for Caring Sunday in 2011. Downloadable from: <http://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/youth-young-adult-ministry/resources/youth-ministry-resources/ideas-for-meetings-with-young-people/>.