

## Year of Mercy | Finding out about the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy

### Resources required:

2 pegs per person (preferably using two colours – we used blue and white)

One printed copy of each of the seven Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy. We printed the Spiritual Works on one coloured paper and the Corporal on a different coloured paper.

Rope (strung somewhere that the printed copies of the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy sheets can be pegged to the rope).

### Instructions:

- Participants are paired off.
- Each participant starts with [one or two – depending on numbers of people] pegs attached to them.
- The goal is to be the first pair to get **seven pegs of one colour**. In order to get the pegs you need to steal these from other people. The pegs must be pegged on to you – they cannot be held in the hand as that means that they will be forfeited and given to another pair.
- The first two groups to get to seven pegs will win a prize.
- Please keep health and safety in mind – do not peg on to parts of the body which might hurt people or that might be regarded as inappropriate.

Assuming we get a pair that has seven pegs then they stand by the rope.

If this is too hard for people then after they have run around for a while challenge the pairs to connect with another pairing that between them will have seven pegs of the one colour.

Once we have two groups with seven pegs those two groups come to where the rope is and they “Peg” the Corporal Works of Mercy to the rope and then the other group “peg” the spiritual works of mercy to the rope. This gives us a visual of what we are going to be working with this year.



**Debrief:**

Why do you think these posters are grouped together the way they are? What is the difference between these two?

(Corporal tend to be active things that we do and are outward focused. Spiritual can be more inward).

Does anyone know what they are called?

Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy:

Corporal works of Mercy	Spiritual works of Mercy
Feed the hungry	Instruct the ignorant
Give drink to the thirsty	Counsel the doubtful
Clothe the naked	Admonish the sinner
Welcome the stranger	Bear wrongs patiently
Visit the sick	Forgive offences willingly
Visit the imprisoned	Comfort the afflicted
Bury the dead	Pray for the living and the dead

What has Pope Francis called each of us to do for the first seven months of this Year of Mercy? (For the first seven months of 2016 you choose a corporal and a spiritual work of mercy to practice each month - [http://m.vatican.va/content/francescomobile/en/messages/youth/documents/papa-francesco\\_20150815\\_messaggio-giovani\\_2016.html](http://m.vatican.va/content/francescomobile/en/messages/youth/documents/papa-francesco_20150815_messaggio-giovani_2016.html)).

There are so many people out there who are in need of our help and our mercy and just like in this game with the pegs, we can help carry their burden by carrying out these works of mercy, feeding the hungry, comforting the afflicted, visiting the sick etc.

**Note for leaders:**

At ACYM we have found that young people typically have a good understanding of the Corporal Works of Mercy but find that the Spiritual Works of Mercy are confusing. You may like to use our Word Search activity at <http://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/youth-young-adult-ministry/events/year-of-mercy-resources/> to explore what these works mean.