

which even make them an object of admiration to others, thus preaching by their good example. This was a brief digression to help you develop the subject I spoke of to you at the beginning and to give you the possibility of putting it into practice.

"Let him who hath two coats, give one to him who hath none."

Be generous, My children! Do not have ambition to become a walking clothes-rack where one suspends endlessly all kinds and all styles of clothes. Do remember that your clothing must serve to cover your body, which has been repeatedly consecrated to God. For this reason everything must be treated with respect, body as well as clothing.

IMITATE MY MOTHER

How admirable was My Sainly Mother in Her simplicity, modesty, and order! How I would like that, by imitating Her, young girls, wives, and mothers give to the world thoughts of Heaven, of Angels, of purity and goodness. Elegance and modesty are not contradictory.

To you, I will point out one last thing. When you give your superfluous, take care to give it with kindness. Let everything be clean, decent, and useful. And above all, let your gift be accompanied by the thought that you are accomplishing this Work of Mercy, which will be rewarded by God in Heaven, where He will clothe you with glory.

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THE SEVEN CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY WHICH CONCERN PHYSICAL NEEDS

FEED THE HUNGRY

GIVE DRINK TO THE THIRSTY

CLOTHE THE NAKED

SHELTER THE HOMELESS

VISIT THE SICK

VISIT THOSE IN PRISON

BURY THE DEAD

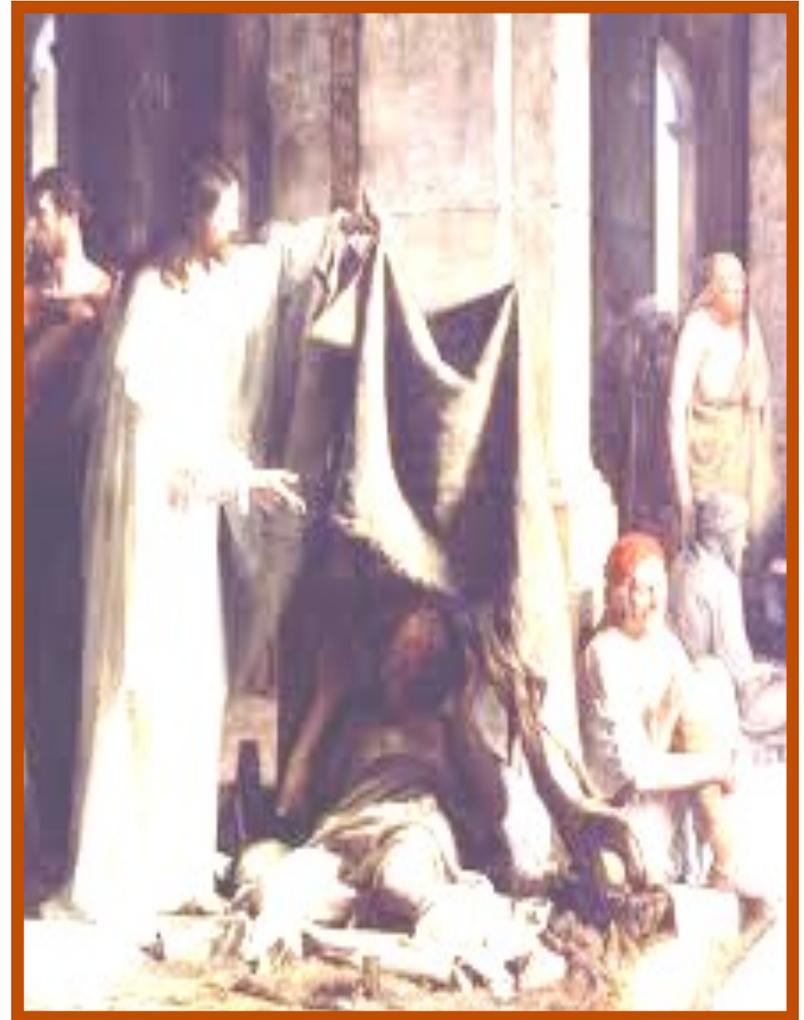
IT IS IMPORTANT TO PRACTICE THESE WORKS OF MERCY AS THEY WILL DETERMINE EACH PERSON'S FINAL DESTINY.

"THEN THE KING WILL SAY TO THOSE AT HIS RIGHT HAND, 'COME, O BLESSED OF MY FATHER, INHERIT THE KINGDOM PREPARED FOR YOU FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD; FOR I WAS HUNGRY AND YOU GAVE ME FOOD, I WAS THIRSTY AND YOU GAVE ME DRINK, I WAS A STRANGER AND YOU WELCOMED ME, I WAS NAKED AND YOU CLOTHED ME, I WAS SICK AND YOU VISITED ME, I WAS IN PRISON AND YOU CAME TO ME.' THEN THE RIGHTEOUS WILL ANSWER HIM, 'LORD, WHEN DID WE SEE THEE HUNGRY AND FEED THEE, OR THIRSTY AND GIVE THEE DRINK?' AND THE KING WILL ANSWER THEM, 'TRULY, I SAY TO YOU, AS YOU DID IT TO ONE OF THE LEAST OF MY BRETHREN, YOU DID IT TO ME.' " Mt. 25:34

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"To Clothe The Naked"

(ONE OF THE CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY)



***" Lord, when did we see Thee naked and clothe Thee,
or thirsty and give Thee drink?"***

"TO CLOTHE THE NAKED"

by Rosalie Turton

What does scripture and some of the saints and visionaries say about possessions? They seem to concur that the spirit of poverty is the more meritorious path to take, than filling our closets, basements, storerooms, etc. with unnecessary and often unused items.

NOTHING SUPERFLUOUS

We are told by Abbess Cecelia Baij in *the Life of St. Joseph*, as dictated by Jesus, that when Joseph became ill and could no longer do carpentry work, the Holy Family, gave away most of Joseph's tools. Jesus knew that He Himself would be a teacher and Savior, and not a carpenter, so the tools were given away because they wanted *nothing superfluous around the house*. What a good lesson that is!

PAY NOW OR LATER

(The following is what Jesus showed the visionary, Anne, from Ireland:) Speaking about Purgatory on a FOCUS video program, Anne told Mary Lou McCall, "You can part with your 'extras' now, or pay for your lack of charity in Purgatory." Wow! Makes you think, doesn't it.

"YOU HAD YOUR CHANCE!"

One day, friar St. Francis of Paola, (from Tan Books...wonderful!) was walking along with his donkey. He noticed that the donkey needed new shoes, so he stopped at a blacksmith shop. He told the Smithy, "I am a poor man, and have no money. Can you give my donkey new shoes?"

The Smithy nailed on each of the four shoes, and then said to Francis, "Now that will be so and so much payment, please."

Francis was taken aback, and replied, "I told you that I am a poor man and have no money!" The Smithy retorted, angrily "Do you think that I live on air? I have a wife and children to support, bills to pay, etc., etc."

Francis, looked at his donkey, and said, "give him back his shoes!" At that, the donkey lifted up each leg and shook off the shoes... plop, plop, plop, plop...and, then began to walk away.

The Smithy, realizing that he had just witnessed a miracle, and that this must be a holy man (for those shoes could not have come off that way when they were nailed on so solidly) shouted at them, "Come back, come back! I will give you the shoes without charge!"

Francis turned to look at the Smithy, pointed his finger at him, and said, "You had your chance!" and kept going.

As you read this, realize that your chance to clothe the naked is NOW. Seize the inspiration and the opportunity, because it is a grace. If you let it pass, later on, God might say to you, "*You had your chance!*"

AN IMPORTANT LESSON

(In *The Message of Merciful Love* - p. 99), Jesus gives His visionary, Carmella Carabelli the following lesson regarding clothing:)

My loving child, the lesson now is on the Work of Mercy: to Clothe the Naked. That is a good work, very easy to practice, and to which I desire you to pay a good deal of attention.

First of all to the rich, I give some advice which will greatly assist in practicing this charity, and it is this: each season reorganize your wardrobe, taking out what has become unusable for you, either because of its style or because of the size. Do not allow the moths to ruin these clothes, but give them to the poor who do not have the possibility of following the fashion, nor the means of buying suitable clothes.

Do not have the terrible habit of piling up your drawers, and do not be a squanderer. Dress yourself according to your position in life, without making excessive expenses to the detriment of the family budget. Keep clean and in order what you possess, so that you may always be dressed appropriately, and even with good taste and simplicity. Do not forget that in your present time, apostolate by means of the word is rarely achieved if it is not accompanied by that of attire.

I will explain: a person who presents himself to his neighbor sloppily dressed is already disagreeable. Besides, I assure you, exterior order expresses a certain interior order, and the two nearly always go together. It is not without reason that you say that order leads to God.

I repeat it to you: dress yourself with decorum and with simplicity, according to your condition, to please your spouse, your children, and do not even exclude God. Certainly, ask yourself if your clothes can please God and whether you can remain in His presence without being ashamed of being untidy or unclean.

These days, one attaches no importance to modesty and to decency which made young girls blush when they showed themselves in public attired scantily; this no longer exists.

One forgets that concupiscence of the flesh is not dead, and if Eve after sinning found it necessary to cover her body, from that time neither the moral law nor the inclination to evil and to luxury, through the intermediary of the flesh, have ceased to exist. That is why there always remains the obligation to defend one's self against so many dangers to which evil inclinations open the way.

How dear to My Heart are the persons who, whilst dressing themselves according to the custom of their time, keep certain limits