



National Catholic Youth Conference – November 19-22 in Indianapolis:

Please keep our diocesan delegation to NCYC in your prayers for safe travels and conversion of hearts. There are many opportunities for those at home to tune in to the keynote and mega sessions at NCYC. For a link to this programming please go to: <http://www.ncyc.info/>

Jubilee of Mercy Opportunities:

Reflection from Dr. Marcellino D’Ambrosio who identified seven areas of emphasis about God’s mercy.

1. Mercy is for everyone. Works of mercy can’t just be relegated to those who belong to the social justice committee or the Missionaries of Charity. Everyone, without exception, is called to the work of mercy.
2. Mercy relieves suffering, and there are different kinds of suffering. It is important to keep in mind that the Church enumerates not only corporal works of mercy but spiritual works of mercy as well.
3. Charity begins at Home. If we open our eyes there are people all around us who are lonely, sick, overworked, and troubled. They very much need our compassion and attention.
4. Charity can’t end at Home. We can’t restrict our works of mercy to family, friends, and those who belong to our Church or political party. As Jesus tells us in the Sermon on the Mount, our works of mercy must extend even to our enemies.
5. Mercy is not always Convenient. There are times that works of mercy can be planned and fit in an orderly way into our schedule. But suffering and crisis are often unpredictable. And responding to them can often be very inconvenient.
6. Charity is not the same as Social Work. We must see God’s image and likeness in the person that benefits from our act and love that person for God’s sake. The work of mercy can and should be a deeply spiritual encounter.
7. Mercy is Never Condescending. Our goal in the work of mercy is always to restore that dignity and honor it. “Charity” that belittles the recipient is never true mercy. In fact the merciful humbly understand that they always receive as much or more as they give when they work to alleviate the suffering of the needy.

To view the rest of the article please follow this link:

http://www.crossroadsinitiative.com/library_article/469/meaning_of_mercy.html

Nobullying.com also has ideas on how to teach mercy:

1. Start the Conversation with Kids – Start the conversation with your children about mercy. You can start by talking to them about their school life. Do your children notice children who eat alone at lunch? Encourage them to show compassion and take the time to show kindness to those kids. If your child notices that another child is being unkind or unforgiving to someone else, talk about it with your child and how things could be done differently.
2. Use Media to Show Opportunities for Compassion and Mercy – The internet and the television often show children bad examples, and unfortunately, it is difficult for parents to filter out these bad messages. However, you can use media to show your children where they could do things differently. When you see something on television or the web that shows a lack of forgiveness, compassion, or mercy, you should take the time to talk to your children about the situation. Point out what could have happened if someone would have used compassion, forgiveness, and kindness.
3. Consider Getting a Pet for the Family – Another great idea is to consider getting a pet for your family, since animals can teach kids so many great qualities. Having a pet can teach kids compassion, forgiveness, mercy, responsibility, and so much more. The way your child treats a pet will be a huge indication of his character, and if you see characteristics that are unwanted, you can work with your child to change them. Let your child have some daily responsibilities when caring for the pet, teaching them how to care for the wellbeing of someone else instead of just focusing on their own needs.
4. Teach Kids to Look Beyond Actions to the Person – When it comes to the treatment of other people, you need to teach your kids to look beyond actions to the person, especially when it comes to being merciful or forgiving. If another child calls your kid a name during recess, encourage your child to think about what that child may have been experiencing. Maybe that child was upset he was being left out. Perhaps the child was upset because of problems in his family. When children learn to look at the person instead of just the action, they are more likely to respond with compassion and forgiveness instead of being mean and hateful back.
5. Encourage Children to Talk About Problems – According to Parenting.com, it's important to teach children to talk about problems, which can help children learn to talk things out and extend forgiveness and mercy. When someone else hurts a child, the child needs to know that it is okay to feel angry about the problem. However, instead of lashing out with anger, suggest that your child talks to the offender in a kind, calm way about the problem. Children can explain that the action made them feel bad and that they do not want the offender to repeat the action. This teaches your child to be merciful instead of being angry and hateful to the offender.

Resources for Catechists regarding Mercy:

- Catholic Mom - <http://catholicmom.com/education-2/lesson-plans/>
 - Beatitudes Worksheet
 - Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy
 - Random Acts of Kindness File Folder Game

- The Unforgiving Servant File Folder Game
- Catholic Icing - <http://www.catholicicing.com/divine-mercy-and-st-faustina-crafts-printables-and-more/>

With You is the Well of Life Prayer by Kevin Mayhew:

We pray, O God,
for all Christians, Muslims, Hindus or Jews
whose hearts are consumed by a zeal that has hardened them;

all whose vision is partial,
whose mind is narrowed,
whose perceptions are simplified,
whose soul is poisoned.

And yet, O God,
we read of Jesus that 'zeal for your house consumed him'.

His life teaches us that without the zeal of a burning love for you
that will endure through the night-time of our enmities
we shall not see your kingdom come.

S
o we ask, O God,
that you give us a zeal that insists on acceptance
a commitment that endures in non-violence
and a patience that works for your coming;

and teach us to hate only our tribalism and prejudice
which separate us from those different to us.

We ask it in the name of the Prince of Peace,
Jesus Christ Our Lord,

Amen.

