

Mercy: Every Christian's Vocation

“Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.” Luke 6:36. Mercy is every Christian's vocation whether you are a pastor or layperson, male or female, young or old, rich or poor, black, white, brown or yellow. Our Christian vocation of mercy is rooted in our baptismal identity as the children of God - As does the Father, so does His sons and daughters. Mercy is conceived in the heart and born in action by God the Holy Spirit. Mercy is truly God's work; we are His co-workers, His voice, hands, feet, eyes and ears through whom He works mercy in the world.

Mercy is not bound by the Law but exercised in the freedom of the Gospel. Our vocation of mercy takes different forms at different times and in different places. Christians volunteer assistance with cleaning-up in the wake of a natural disaster. Christian Day-school children collect canned goods for a local homeless shelter. Christian youth help build a Habitat home during the National Youth Gathering. Our vocation of mercy is not limited to extra-ordinary events or deeds, though. As Christians we also live out our vocation of mercy in the ordinary, mundane situations of daily life. A son or daughter cares for their aging parents, paying bills, running errands, feeding, bathing and clothing those who once fed, bathed and clothed them. Grandparents become parents once again raising their children's children, changing diapers, helping with homework, attending PTA meetings and soccer practices. A student overcomes peer pressure and befriends the boy or girl everyone at school picks on, speaks up for them, and eats lunch with them. A hospice nurse spends the night at a patient's bedside, cares for the dying, and prays with the family. Whether in times of crisis or the humdrum rhythm of daily life, Christians live out their vocation of mercy.

Southeastern District
Extending Mercy – Human Care
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