CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY

WHINY KAI: Oh, the reception here is so bad I can't even livestream these videos of baby goats.

DOWN-ON-HER-LUCK-LIBBY:

Oh, I know. So inconvenient, right? Millennials.

CATHOLIC CENTRAL OPENING TITLES

LIBBY: Welcome to Catholic Central. I'm Libby.

KAI: And I'm Kai. Today we're talking about the Corporal Works of Mercy.

LIBBY: Corporal comes from the Latin *corpus*, meaning the body.

KAI: These are all the things you can do to break out of selfishness and love and serve other people.

LIBBY: Well, not all the ways.

KAI: Oh, OK. Well, these are some of the ways the Church has identified of meeting people's material or physical needs.

LIBBY: You might be thinking, "Other people? Jeez. Can't I just sit alone all day and pray for people without having to talk to or smell them?"

KAI: Unfortunately, the answer is no.

LIBBY: And these works are considered obligatory, and Jesus had some pretty strong words in Matthew 25 for people that didn't do them.

KAI: "Then He will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you accursed. For I was hungry, and you gave me no food; I was thirsty, and you gave me no drink; a stranger, and you gave me no welcome; naked, and you gave me no clothing; ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.'"

LIBBY: Yikes. And let's not forget James 2:17.

SURGEON KAI: I'm sorry to say it, but because he didn't perform any works, his faith is dead.

PATIENT’S FRIEND LIBBY:

Oh, but he went to Mass every day.

KAI: As Pope Francis says in his book, *The Name of God is Mercy*, "By welcoming a marginalized person whose body is wounded and by welcoming the sinner whose soul is wounded, we put our credibility as Christians on the line."

LIBBY: So, first off, feeding the hungry and giving drink to the thirsty.

KAI: Good thing, because I am starving. Hey, Libby, you got any extra mercy snacks in your purse?

LIBBY: Unfortunately not. This doesn't just mean giving a spare granola bar to someone who otherwise has more than enough.

KAI: It's important to seek out ways to serve those that don't have enough to eat.

LIBBY: You can do this by donating to food pantries, serving meals to the homeless, or taking meals to new mothers or families that have lost a loved one.

KAI: Also, Catholic bishops would point out that clean drinking water is a human right.

LIBBY: So we can work to bring water to communities in need and be mindful of how much water we use.

KAI: Next up is clothing the naked.

OLD LADY KAI: This is a family show.

KAI: That's literally the name for it.

OLD LADY KAI: Well, I suppose those are the people who need clothes the most.

KAI: It doesn't just mean people who aren't wearing any clothes. It can be people that don't have enough warm clothes, for example.

LIBBY: To do this one, you can donate your old clothes to a charity, or your new ones. I mean-

KAI: Why not?

LIBBY: Yeah.

KAI: And look into buying clothes that are produced ethically, for a fair wage, under good working conditions.

LIBBY: Moving on to sheltering the homeless.

KAI: OK, so this one can apply to building physical shelters for people without homes.

LIBBY: But it can also extend to organizations that work with refugees and victims of domestic violence.

KAI: Or even reaching out to new people at school, work, or in the community, and making them feel at home. Next up, visiting the sick.

OLD LADY KAI: If only my grandkids would come visit me, it would warm my poor, sick heart.

LIBBY: Not to make you feel super-guilty or anything, but visiting can be a great help to the person who is sick.

KAI: If you don't happen to know anyone who is sick right now, you can look at volunteering in a hospital, a nursing home or hospice.

LIBBY: Or ask them on someone who's a full-time caregiver if they need a break.

KAI: You can also literally give of yourself by donating blood.

PRISONER LIBBY: Hey, can we get on with this?

LIBBY: Sorry, yes. Next is visiting the imprisoned.

KAI: Prisoners challenge us to see the image and likeness of God in everyone, regardless of what they've done.

PRISONER LIBBY: Wait, even me?

LIBBY: Wait, what did you do?

KAI: The point is that it doesn't matter. Yes, even you are made in the image and likeness of God.

PRISONER LIBBY: Thank you.

LIBBY: For this one you can look into prison ministries or writing letters to prisoners.

KAI: Or charities that aid children whose parents are in prison or organizations that work against human trafficking.

LIBBY: You can also look into programs that work in restorative justice, which focuses on repairing the harm caused by an offense through rehabilitation and reconciliation.

KAI: Then there's burying the dead.

LIBBY: Ooh, fun fact. This one wasn't an original work of mercy, but was declared one when, during the years of early Christianity, there were a lot of people that needed to be buried once the lions were done with them.

KAI: Now, most of us probably won't have to go out and dig graves.

LIBBY: Although, it is a skill that would come in handy during a zombie apocalypse.

KAI: So for this one, you can look for opportunities to support those who have lost loved ones. You can attend funerals.

LIBBY: And pray for the dead. Catholics believe that we can still pray for people to be able to join God in heaven even after they've passed away.

KAI: So, there you have it. Seven ways, to-

LIBBY: But wait, there's more.

KAI: More? We really need to be wrapping this up.

LIBBY: In 2016, Pope Francis proposed Care for the Environment as a compliment to the other works of mercy.

KAI: And fortunately, we have a whole episode with ideas on how to do that.

LIBBY: As with all of these, it's important to strive to see the face of Christ in everyone that we encounter.

KAI: When it comes to mercy, there's never too much that we can give or do.

LIBBY: For more on putting the corporal works of mercy into action, check out our website at catholiccentral.com.

KAI: I'm Kai.

LIBBY: And I'm Libby. Until next time, work it.

KAI: Corporally.

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