

**April:**  
**Lives with Value: People who are**  
**Homeless or Incarcerated**

## Opening Prayer:

Let us pray...

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Dear Lord, we thank You for today and for our gift of life. Today I am asking you to bless over all those who are incarcerated and those that are homeless. May they experience Your grace, peace, and strength. We also pray for their families, especially their children. We ask that their guardian angels protect them and bring them closer to you. We ask this in Jesus' name, Amen.

## Spiritual Adoption: A Reflection- Your Baby is 7-months old!

Thanks again for praying for me! I must be very special to have someone like you praying for me every day. I am growing so big and strong inside my mommy. I am now between 15-17 inches long and weigh about 5 pounds. I try to move around a lot but it is very crowded in here. Sometimes I get the hiccups- I bet my mommy can feel that. One a few more months and then I will get to meet my mommy! I am so excited. Please don't forget to pray for me each day. You are my angel on earth.

## Spiritual Adoption Prayer:

"Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I love you very much. I beg you to spare the life of the unborn baby that I have spiritually adopted who is in danger."

- Prayer of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

**Objective:** Although some people are homeless or incarcerated, they are still valued and respected.

**Bible Verse:**

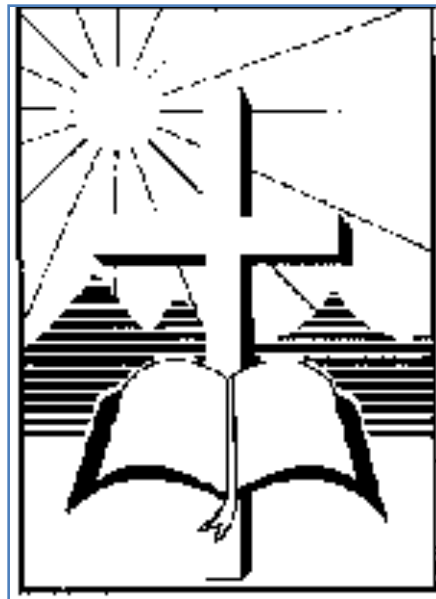
*"Don't delay giving to those in need." Sirach 4:1-10*



**Theme:** To teach the students that although people are homeless, they are still valuable. Through our prayers, we can bring them new life like Jesus gave new life to those who were homeless and poor. We don't have the right to take the life of someone who is incarcerated through capital punishment. Life is to always be protected from natural conception until natural death.

### **Did you know?**

Neither the incarcerated nor homeless people should ever be denied dignity.



## Discussion:

- Everything belongs to *God*. We need to share our gifts.
- There are many poor people in the world.
- People are homeless for many different reasons, and we will never know all the reasons.
- The most important thing we can do for them is to pray for them.
- Many of these people don't have any praying for them.



## Questions?

Write the answers in your journal.

- How can we help those who are homeless?
- Do we treat them differently? Why or why not?
- How do you think their families feel about them being homeless?
- What is something each one of us can do to help them?



## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Additional Discussion:

- With our birth came free will.
- Each of us was born with the ability to make choices in life.
- All of us have made and will continue to make poor choices at some point in our life.
- Unfortunately, some people have made poor choices in life that have broken the law and are now in prison.
- Some of those who are incarcerated will spend the rest of their lives in prison.
- Although these people have made these choices and are now in prison, they are still valuable children of God.
- Many of these people have no one to pray for them.
- God calls each one of us to not only pray for our family and friends, but also for those we do not know.
- Some of them have made some really poor choices, we are not to judge others.
- Because of God's resurrection, the sins of all, including those who are incarcerated, can be forgiven by God.
- If God forgives, will you?
- Only God knows what is in their hearts and only He can judge them.

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Additional Questions:  
Write the answers in your journal.**

- How can we help those who are incarcerated and their families?
- Do we treat them differently? Why or why not?
- How do you think their families feel about them living in incarceration?
- What is something each one of us can do to help them?





## Activity: Prayer Cards

- Have the students create prayer cards with inspirational quotes or images.
- Allow the students to use their Bibles to find appropriate scriptures.
- A simple, yet powerful, statement to write is "You are Loved."
- Include a prayer and a small drawing on the prayer cards.
- The students can also complete a Spiritual Bouquet.
- Either of these can be given to those who are homeless or incarcerated.
- Neither people who are homeless nor incarcerated are to ever be denied dignity.

## Discussion:

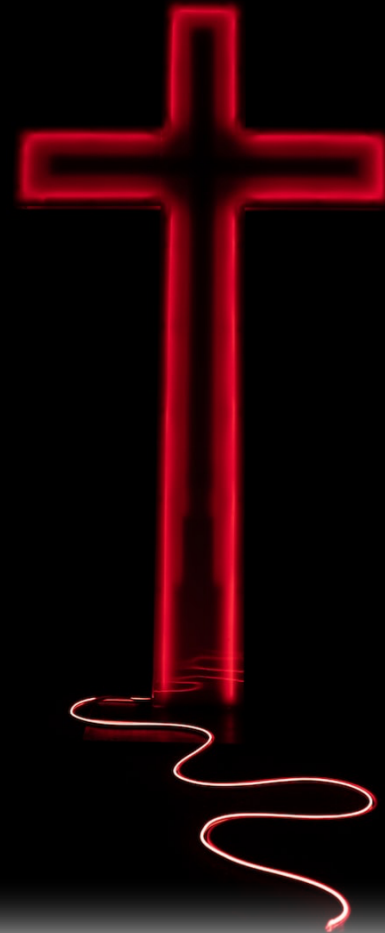
Discuss the various quotes, scripture verses, and prayers that they have chosen to put on the prayer cards and why those were chosen.



## **Closing Prayer:**

Glory be to the Father and  
to the Son and to the Holy  
Spirit, as it was in the  
beginning is now, and ever  
shall be, world without end.

Amen.



# Spiritual Works of Mercy Novena for April

## Let us pray...

Dear Jesus, sometimes people are without homes. Sometimes people are in prison because they have made choices that are not good. Please help me to always remember that even though someone does not have the good things that I have like a home, and that even though someone has made choices that are not good, they are still children created and loved by God. May my prayers help those who need it to find a home where they are safe. May my prayers help those who have gone to prison to know God's love and to find a way to serve God in their situation. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.



**Virtue: HOPE:** "We desire and with steadfast trust await from God eternal life and the graces to merit it." CCC 1817 to 1821

