

Jesus says: "You are the light of the world." A bold proclamation. We are to let our light shine before others through our good deeds. These deeds make our world brighter.

In our ancient and venerable Tradition, we have some "good deeds" that receive special attention.

The "good deeds" are known as The Corporal Works of Mercy. Some of these "works of mercy" are contained in our 1st reading from Isaiah.

What are the Corporal Works of Mercy? There are 7.

- 1) Feed the Hungry.
- 2) Give drink to the Thirsty.
- 3) Clothe the Naked.
- 4) Shelter the Homeless.
- 5) Visit the Sick.
- 6) Visit the Imprisoned.
- 7) Bury the Dead.

These are charitable actions for the common good. Whenever we extend ourselves through these "works of mercy" we are a light in our world.

Many parish, vicariate and Diocesan efforts are directed to fulfill the "works of mercy". We have food collections. We participate in the Food for faith. We can take clothes and other goods to St. Vincent de Paul, Goodwill, or the Salvation Army. We tithe and send the monies to various organizations that serve needs in our community. Visiting the sick is a high priority. We contribute to those involved in prison ministry. We grieve with those who have experienced the death of a loved one through our cards, calls, and visitation; through our prayers, services and funeral luncheons.

Both individually and as a faith community, we are daily striving to be a light in the world.

This week be mindful that we are Christ's hands on earth. We are Christ's Presence. We are Christ to one another.

My sisters and brothers: We are the light of Christ wherever we are.