

**Homily Outline for Ash Wednesday  
Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception  
February 10, 2016**

**† Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki  
Bishop of Springfield in Illinois**

S.S.P.: We show mercy by practicing the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.

- I. "Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned."
  - A. Psalm response to our first reading, in which the Prophet Joel reminded the people to "return to the LORD, your God. For gracious and merciful is He."
  - B. In this Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy as proclaimed by Pope Francis, "may the Church echo the word of God that resounds strong and clear as a message and a sign of pardon, strength, aid, and love. May she never tire of extending mercy, and be ever patient in offering compassion and comfort. May the Church become the voice of every man and woman, and repeat confidently without end: 'Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old'" (Psalm 25:6).
- II. We show mercy by practicing the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.

**Corporal Works of Mercy**

The Corporal Works of Mercy are these kind acts by which we help our neighbors with their material and physical needs.

- feed the hungry
- give drink to the thirsty
- clothe the naked
- shelter the homeless
- visit the sick
- visit the imprisoned
- bury the dead

### A. **Spiritual Works of Mercy**

The Spiritual Works of Mercy are acts of compassion, as listed below, by which we help our neighbors with their emotional and spiritual needs.

- counsel the doubtful
- instruct the ignorant
- admonish sinners
- comfort the afflicted
- forgive offenses
- bear wrongs patiently
- pray for the living and the dead

III. May God give us this grace. Amen.