

## Know Your Faith

Contributed by Abigale Coates

### The Precepts of the Church

#### Catechism of the Catholic Church

Paragraph 2041 The precepts of the Church are set in the context of a moral life bound to and nourished by liturgical life. The obligatory character of these positive laws decreed by the pastoral authorities is meant to guarantee to the faithful the very necessary minimum in the spirit of prayer and moral effort, in the growth in love of God and neighbor:

2042 The first precept ("**You shall attend Mass on Sundays and on holy days of obligation and rest from servile labor.**") requires the faithful to sanctify the day commemorating the Resurrection of the Lord as well as the principal liturgical feasts honoring the mysteries of the Lord, the Blessed Virgin Mary and the saints; in the first place, by participating in the Eucharistic celebration, in which the Christian community is gathered, and by resting from those works and activities which could impede such a sanctification of these days.

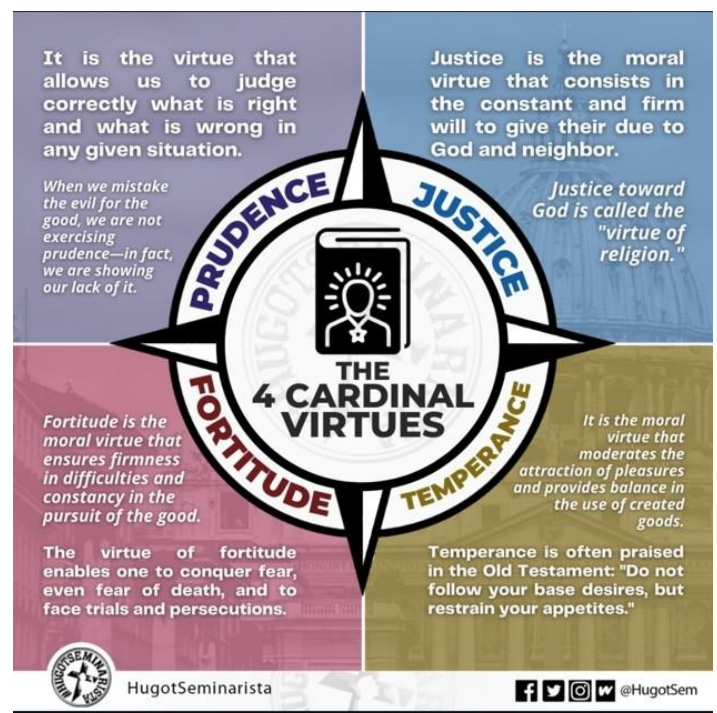
The second precept ("**You shall confess your sins at least once a year.**") ensures preparation for the Eucharist by the reception of the sacrament of reconciliation, which continues Baptism's work of conversion and forgiveness.

The third precept ("**You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season.**") guarantees as a

minimum the reception of the Lord's Body and Blood in connection with the Paschal feasts, the origin and center of the Christian liturgy.

2043 The fourth precept ("**You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church**") ensures the times of asceticism and penance which prepare us for the liturgical feasts and help us acquire mastery over our instincts and freedom of heart.

The fifth precept ("**You shall help to provide for the needs of the Church**") means that the faithful are obliged to assist with the material needs of the Church, each according to his own ability.



## CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY

1. FEED THE HUNGRY
2. GIVE DRINK TO THE THIRSTY
3. CLOTHE THE NAKED
4. SHELTER THE HOMELESS
5. COMFORT THE SICK
6. VISIT THE IMPRISONED
7. BURY THE DEAD

## SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY

1. INSTRUCT THE IGNORANT
2. COUNSEL THE DOUBTFUL
3. ADMONISH SINNERS
4. BEAR WRONGS PATIENTLY
5. FORGIVE OFFENSES WILLINGLY
6. COMFORT THE AFFLICTED
7. PRAY FOR THE LIVING & THE DEAD

## Catechism of the Catholic Church

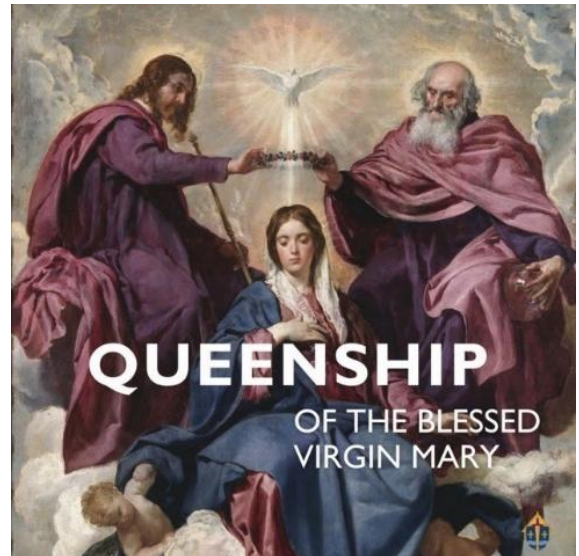
The works of mercy are charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbor in his spiritual and bodily necessities.

Instructing, advising, consoling, comforting are spiritual works of mercy, as are forgiving and bearing wrongs patiently.

The corporal works of mercy consist especially in feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned, and burying the dead.

Among all these, giving alms to the poor is one of the chief witnesses to fraternal charity: it is also a work of justice pleasing to God.

– CCC, 2447



The Queenship of Mary is celebrated on August 22, the octave day of Our Lady's Assumption, celebrated on August 15. Elizabeth calls Mary "mother of my Lord." We recognize Mary as Queen of Heaven as a natural consequence of her relationship to Jesus the King. As in earthly monarchies, her role as "Queen Mother" rests on the position and authority of her son, and her influential relationship with him.