

Nb Works of Mercy

These cards (4 1/4 in. by 1 3/4 in.) were designed to go with pictures depicting the works of mercy in the first centuries. For book ideas from which to obtain pictures see **Material Making Printable Page Pictures** document.

The early Christians took care of the poor by bringing them food baskets. Bread, oil, dried beans and fresh fruits and vegetables were the typical foods filling the baskets.

A particularly serious focus of the early Christians was preaching and teaching. The victory of Jesus over death and suffering inspired the disciples to share the faith so that others could enjoy, participate in and celebrate life with the Risen Jesus.

The dying, who would soon be with Jesus in heaven, were especially important to the early Christians. Prayers were said and after death occurred bodies were washed and prepared for burial.

Taking care of the needs of the poor was another serious focus of the early Christians. Some needed healing, some companionship, some work or money for the basic necessities of life.

The sick frequently miss normal activities of life—conversations, relationships, connections to daily events in the community. The early Christians visited the sick to bring them news and even communion from the Eucharistic Meal.

Harsh realities of life can sometimes make us sad. Those filled with love and joy, those filled with the hope of the Resurrection visited and brought joy to the sorrowful.

Food baskets were brought to the hungry.

The early Christians taught and preached to the crowds who wanted to hear about Jesus.

The dying were visited and prayed for that each would experience a peaceful death.

The sick held a special place in the hearts of the early Christians.

The early Christians brought comfort to the sorrowful.

The poor received care from the early Christians.