

# To Know To Believe To Live – KBL2 Discipleship Pt 2 Official Handout

02.13.21 Version

Developed by Msgr. Michael Clay

Copyright 2021, Msgr. Michael Clay, All Rights Reserved.

Unauthorized copying or redistribution of this document in print or electronic format is strictly prohibited.

---

## MISSIONARY DISCIPLESHIP The Corporal Works of Mercy

### I. Introduction:

- A. “Everything a baptized person does each day should be directly or indirectly related to the corporal or spiritual works of mercy.” -Dorothy Day
- B. Missionary discipleship moves us outward into the world, local and beyond, to respond to others’ needs as the presence of Christ.
- C. The corporal works of mercy focus on the bodily needs of our neighbor, needs Jesus describes in Matthew 25: 31-46, as ways we act concretely in the world as his disciples.

### II. Feeding the Hungry:

- A. Hunger and food insecurity a common problem.
  - 1. 40 million Americans (12.3% of households)
  - 2. 800 million people in the world are chronically malnourished
- B. Some Responses:
  - 1. Contribute to local food pantries
  - 2. Volunteer to help distribute food
  - 3. Grocery shop for those who cannot go
  - 4. Purchase less food & give savings to the hungry

### III. Giving Drink to the Thirsty:

- A. Water is required to sustain human life:
  - 1. 884 million people lack access to safe water
  - 2. Child dies of water-related disease every minute (over half-a-million a year)
  - 3. By 2025, estimated 1.8 billion people (22%) will be living with absolute water scarcity
- B. Some Responses:
  - 1. Conserve water use whenever possible
  - 2. Support efforts for water sanitation/access in world (build wells/inexpensive water sanitation systems)

### IV. Clothing the Naked:

- A. Clothing insecurity/lack of clean clothing is bigger issue than realized
  - 1. Underwear, socks, and shoes are luxuries for the poor
  - 2. Clothing for poor children are quickly outgrown, like all children, impacting self-esteem, school attendance
- B. Some Responses:
  - 1. Give new/gently used clothes to clothing banks
  - 2. Work with stores/manufacturers to donate clothing

# To Know To Believe To Live – KBL2 Discipleship Pt 2 Official Handout

02.13.21 Version

Developed by Msgr. Michael Clay

Copyright 2021, Msgr. Michael Clay, All Rights Reserved.

Unauthorized copying or redistribution of this document in print or electronic format is strictly prohibited.

---

## V. Sheltering the Homeless:

### A. Reality of Homelessness in US:

1. Over 500,000 are homeless
2. 70% are individuals (6% are unaccompanied youth; 6% are veterans)
3. 30% are families with children
4. Homelessness is on the increase

### B. Some Responses:

1. Make/give blankets, socks, etc. to shelters
2. Donate money/time at homeless shelters
3. Research causes of homelessness and advocate for remediation

## VI. Discussion:

A. Which of these four corporal works of mercy (feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked, sheltering the homeless) is most challenging for you? What makes it challenging?

B. What could you do to become better/more successful at embracing one of these corporal works of mercy?

## VII. Visiting the Sick:

### A. Includes those suffering from illness, age, or isolation

1. Illness can be short-term or long-term
2. Illness of any kind can lead to isolation which makes the illness more difficult

### B. Some Responses:

1. Visit nursing homes or retirement centers
2. If a visit isn't possible, call or write the ill
3. Bring Scriptures and/or Eucharist to the ill

## VIII. Visiting the Imprisoned:

### A. The Imprisoned:

1.  $\pm 2.3$  million are incarcerated in the U.S.
2. US has  $\pm 5\%$  of world population but  $\pm 25\%$  of global prison population
3. Disproportionately Black and Latino

# To Know To Believe To Live – KBL2 Discipleship Pt 2 Official Handout

02.13.21 Version

Developed by Msgr. Michael Clay

Copyright 2021, Msgr. Michael Clay, All Rights Reserved.

Unauthorized copying or redistribution of this document in print or electronic format is strictly prohibited.

---

## B. Some Responses:

1. Get involved with parish prison ministry
2. Send cards/letters to prison inmates
3. Donate to charities that help family members of the incarcerated
4. Advocate for judicial & prison reform

## IX. Burying and Mourning the Dead:

### A. Death is Part of Life:

1. Every family experiences death
2. Funerals/burials are very expensive in US:
3. US Average: \$9000 for funeral/burial with body /\$6000-8000 for funeral/cremation
4. Grieving process is significant in first year

### B. Some Responses:

1. Attend wake/funerals of people you know
2. Help with parish funeral or bereavement ministry
3. Visit/call/write those who are mourning the death of someone

## X. Discussion:

A. Which of these three corporal works of mercy (visiting the sick, visiting the imprisoned, burying the dead) is most challenging for you? What makes it challenging?

B. What could you do to become better/more successful at embracing one of these corporal works of mercy?

## XI. Prayer:

God of mercy: it is your will that we love and serve those who are in bodily need. Help us practice the corporal works of mercy: feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked, sheltering the homeless, visiting the sick, visiting the imprisoned, and burying and mourning the dead. Remind us that your Spirit is ever upon us to help us respond each day to the bodily needs of our sisters and brothers. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**REMEMBER: THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON YOU!**