

“Shelter The Homeless”

Welcome The Stranger – The Third Work of Mercy in Matthew 25:35

The words of Sirach 2-13: My child, when you come to serve the Lord,* prepare yourself for trials.^a 2Be sincere of heart and steadfast, and do not be impetuous in time of adversity. 3Cling to him, do not leave him, that you may prosper in your last days. 4Accept whatever happens to you; in periods of humiliation be patient. 5For in fire gold is tested, and the chosen, in the crucible of humiliation.^b 6Trust in God, and he will help you; make your ways straight and hope in him. 7You that fear the Lord, wait for his mercy, do not stray lest you fall. 8You that fear the Lord, trust in him, and your reward will not be lost. 9You that fear the Lord, hope for good things, for lasting joy and mercy. 10Consider the generations long past and see: has anyone trusted in the Lord and been disappointed? Has anyone persevered in his fear and been forsaken? has anyone called upon him and been ignored?^c 11For the Lord is compassionate and merciful; forgives sins and saves in time of trouble. 12Woe to timid hearts and drooping hands,* to the sinner who walks a double path! 13Woe to the faint of heart! For they do not trust, and therefore have no shelter!

Within the Christian tradition, the Rule of St. Benedict particularly stands out. It calls the monks to practice hospitality with this statement, reminiscent of Matthew 25:40: “Let all guests who arrive be received like Christ, for He is going to say, “I came as a guest, and you received me” (53.1). It also describes how the monks must interact with the guests: “In the salutation of all guests, whether arriving or departing, let all humility be shown. Let the head be bowed or the whole body prostrated on the ground in adoration of Christ, who indeed is received in their persons” (53.6).

To Shelter The Homeless

Everyone needs shelter. Some people live in cardboard homes; some people live in homes made of discarded materials; many people are homeless. Our objective then, is to help the homeless obtain shelter as an act of love.

Examples of ways to Shelter The Homeless:

- Volunteer or Support charitable agencies which care for the homeless
 - o Fr. Fred, Women’s Resource Center, Goodwill Inn, Area Agency on Aging
- In the wake of natural disasters, Support or help with The American Red Cross or other agencies which assist the homeless in times of fire, floods, or other disasters
 - o bring others to your home
 - o donate time, food or clothing
- Help your neighbors care for their homes and do repairs - Help build homes for the homeless
 - o Habitat for Humanity
 - o Freedom Builders
 - o Offer to help with dusting the furniture, making the beds, cleaning the floor, cutting the grass, help with needed indoor or outdoor repairs
- Working or volunteering at, or supporting a homeless shelter
- Be an advocate for public policies and legislation that provide housing for low income people
- Consider becoming a Foster Parent
 - o Child and Family Services
 - o Catholic Charities; Catholic Human Services
- Pray for those in need

For more resource information, please see our Parish website: www.ChristKingChurch.org