



**Jubilee of Mercy | Diocese of Camden | MercyWorks Bulletin Blurbs**

*January: Welcome the Stranger*

**MercyWorks** is a project that invites the diocesan community to observe the Jubilee Year by deepening our commitment to working for peace and justice in our own region and beyond.

During eight months of the Jubilee, **MercyWorks** will invite the faithful to participate in prayer, education, and action around different themes inspired by the corporal works of mercy:

<b>January:</b>	<b>Welcome the Stranger</b>
February:	Care for the Sick
March:	Feed the Hungry
April:	Give Drink to the Thirsty
May:	Shelter the Homeless
June:	Visit the Imprisoned
October:	Clothe the Naked
November:	Bury the Dead

Please consider publishing these weekly bulletin blurbs during the month of January. Activity ideas and special event information can be found online at [www.camdendiocese.org/mercy](http://www.camdendiocese.org/mercy).

**January 3:** The Catholic Church here in the US observes National Migration Week from January 3-9, a period of prayer, education, and action around issues that affect immigrants and refugees. Take some time with your family this week to visit the National Migration Week website, where you can download a beautiful prayer card, learn about how the Church is responding to the Syrian refugee crisis, and email your lawmakers to urge them to take action to protect refugees. Access the website here: <http://www.usccb.org/about/migration-and-refugee-services/national-migration-week/>. (Or, more simply, just Google “National Migration Week.”)

**January 10:** Luis was imprisoned when he spoke out for human rights in Cuba. He made the heart wrenching decision to leave his adult children behind and come to the U.S. as a refugee. Now he gives back by volunteering with Catholic Charities during his two days off from work a week as a furniture delivery and pick up volunteer. He says he is motivated by the gratitude he feels towards Catholic Charities, and by a desire to help others like him find the “good path” that he has found. Read more of the incredible stories of refugees and learn how you can get involved at [CatholicCharitiesCamden.org/mercy](http://CatholicCharitiesCamden.org/mercy).

**January 17:** “When it comes to immigration, the Church reminds us that in the end, all of us are children of the same loving God,” Pope Francis said during his speech at Independence Hall in September. “That makes us brothers and sisters, despite the borders that separate us. And in arguing over borders to keep people out, we need to be vigilant against erecting those same borders in our hearts.” Get involved with the Catholic Church’s efforts to make our immigration system more just. Visit [www.justiceforimmigrants.org](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org) to see how you can get involved.

**January 24:** *Take action to Welcome the Stranger.* During this month where we remember the corporal work of mercy to Welcome the Stranger, you can have a direct impact on the lives of refugees who are beginning their new lives in the U.S. Donate basic items comprising one of four “welcome kits” in the areas of household, kitchen, bedroom and hygiene. These basic necessities help Catholic Charities furnish homes for families who arrive in the U.S. after an exhausting journey with little more than the clothes on their backs. Shopping for these items or building a welcome kit as a family can provide a great opportunity to enter together into the experience of newly arrived refugee families. Find the listing of welcome kit items and learn how to donate by visiting [CatholicCharitiesCamden.org/mercy](http://CatholicCharitiesCamden.org/mercy).

**January 31:** Take a few moments this week to pray for the people of Syria.

Almighty eternal God, source of all compassion, the promise of your mercy and saving help fills our hearts with hope.

Hear the cries of the people of Syria; bring healing to those suffering from the violence, and comfort to those mourning the dead.

Empower and encourage Syria’s neighbors in their care and welcome for refugees. Convert the hearts of those who have taken up arms, and strengthen the resolve of those committed to peace.

O God of hope and Father of mercy, your Holy Spirit inspires us to look beyond ourselves and our own needs.

Inspire leaders to choose peace over violence and to seek reconciliation with enemies.

Inspire the Church around the world with compassion for the people of Syria, and fill us with hope for a future of peace built on justice for all.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace and Light of the World, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

--Catholics Confront Global Poverty