



Teens Learn, and Show, Mercy at Buffalo Convention

Over 800 high school students from across the Buffalo Diocese attended the 64th annual diocesan Youth Convention, offering their mercy through service projects and prayer.

The expo offered teens the opportunity to perform the seven corporal works of mercy. They made silk flower bouquets for Catholic Cemeteries as a way of honoring the dead, and fleece hats and scarves to clothe the naked and homeless. They learned about clean water from the Catholic Committee for Climate Change to give drink to the thirsty. The sick children from Children's Hospital and Roswell Park Cancer Institute will be comforted by the crowns and tiaras made by the teens.

A goal of 20,000 meals packed to feed the hungry in Africa through Catholic Relief Services' Stop Hunger Now program was surpassed by 88 bags of rice and grains.

During a reconciliation service, a Mercy Walk was offered. Participants could choose among seven different paths based upon the spiritual works of mercy. Nearly 150 notes were written to other teens suffering from mental illness and drug addiction to comfort the afflicted. Prayers for the living and dead were written on paper and placed on a cross.



Teens fill bags of food for Stop Hunger Now, a partnership with Catholic Relief Services, at the 64th annual Diocesan Youth Convention. Feeding the hungry is one of the corporal works of mercy. Photo: Patrick McPartland/Western New York Catholic.

Some teens carried bricks, like their burdens, through the hotel's grand pavilion to learn to bear wrongs patiently.

"I really liked that," said Kayla Whalen, 16, from St. Martha Parish, Depew. "It was about how we all have to carry so much around with us, and it can be hard sometimes."

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