

bodies of our deceased brethren. Hence, many have been commended for the zeal they have shown in rendering these last services to their fellow-beings.

In classing among the works of mercy, the burial of the dead, religion furnishes us with another proof of our future resurrection. The duties it prescribes, or the counsels which it gives, are in perfect harmony with the truths which it teaches. When death has stricken the body, all is not finished ; according to Holy Scripture, man will take up his mortal remains, and be re-invested ; hence it is not a matter of indifference how those remains are treated by those who survive him.

The spiritual works of mercy equally respond to the wants of the souls. We will briefly indicate them :—

1st. *To pray for the living and the dead.* According to those words of the Apostle St. James : “ Pray one for another, that you may be saved.” (v. 16).

2nd. *To instruct the ignorant.* That is, to teach the truths of religion to the children of God, after the example of Our Saviour, who came into this world to spread the knowledge of truth, necessary to the happiness of humanity, “ in order to evangelize the poor.”

3rd. *To give good counsel.* This is not difficult. It an act of charity, when the occasion offers itself, to give others the benefits of our knowledge and experience.

4th. *To comfort the afflicted.* This is spiritual alms-giving ; to pour oil and balsam on wounded hearts ; to soften the bitterness of souls plunged in grief, and who might easily give way to despair.

5th. *To admonish sinners.* To reprove others requires tact and prudence, combined with charity and sweetness.

6th. *To forgive injuries.* This is a meritorious act, whereby we put in practice the words we so often repeat in the Lord's prayer.

7th. *To bear wrongs patiently.* “ Now we that are stronger ought to bear the infirmities of the weak.” (Ro-