

Heart of Jesus. 'After His example, let us be eyes to the blind, feet to the lame, charitable to the poor, and the comfort of the afflicted. How sweet it is to console those who mourn ! What music in those words of benediction which fall from the lips of the unfortunate ! What happiness does he not enjoy, who shares the sorrow of his brother ! Nothing can be more conformable to the noble instincts of our nature. Who could behold the misfortunes of another without being moved to compassion, and desiring to come to his assistance ? This feeling of sympathy is explained first, by the proximity of origin and condition. All are our fellow-beings, and we should wish for them the good that we would desire for ourselves. Moreover, fraternal charity requires that we rejoice with those who are glad, and weep with those who mourn.

According to the Angelic Doctor, there are seven works of mercy, or seven ways of practising spiritual and corporal alms-deeds, corresponding to the respective needs which are found in the physical and moral existence of our neighbor. We will briefly enumerate them.

1st. *To feed the hungry.* In the Mosaic law it was written : " There will not be wanting poor in the land of thy habitation : therefore I command thee to open thy hand " to thy needy and poor brother, that liveth with thee in " the land." (Deut. xv. 11.)

The holy old man Tobias recalled this duty to his son when he said to him : " Eat thy bread with the hungry and the needy." (Tobias iv.)

2nd. *To give drink to the thirsty.* In the day of judgment Our Lord will say to the elect : " I was thirsty (in the person of the poor) and you gave Me to drink." (Matt. xxv. 35).

3rd. *To clothe the naked.* We read in the Acts of the Apostles, the touching recital of the miracle worked by St. Peter. Tabitha, a pious and beneficent woman of Joppe, had just died, enriched with good works and alms-deeds.