



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

*May: Shelter the Homeless*

**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:

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

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

**May 1:**

In 2015, a statewide survey counted the men and women living on the streets in New Jersey on one particular January night. In the six counties that make up the Diocese of Camden, the survey found 1,675 homeless men, women and children. The Church calls us to see the face of Christ in those who are homeless. A report published by the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace in 1988 declares: "In each person or family lacking a basic good, and above all housing, the Christian must recognize Christ himself." This month, take time to volunteer at a homeless

shelter, collect items to donate to an organization serving the homeless, or write to your representatives to encourage them to support affordable housing in New Jersey. And don't forget to pray for the homeless and those who are at risk of becoming homeless.

**May 8:**

This Mother's Day, we remember the words of the Holy Mary, Mother of God: "God has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty." We have the privilege to work together with God to "lift up the lowly." During this month, the diocese is focusing on the work of mercy of sheltering the homeless. Catholic Charities' Veteran Services program works every day to prevent veterans and their families from becoming homeless and to get homeless veterans off the streets. On Saturday, May 21, the program invites you to join them for a BBQ to learn more about the issue of veteran homelessness in South Jersey from men and women who have experienced it. All are welcome for a family day of good conversation, good food and service starting at 1 p.m. at St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church: 43 W Maple Ave, Merchantville, NJ. Visit [CatholicCharitiesCamden.org/Mercy](http://CatholicCharitiesCamden.org/Mercy) for more information.

**May 15:**

In the United States some 48,000 veterans are homeless on any given night, making up about 11 percent of the total homeless population in the U.S. Catholic Charities' Veteran Services program works every day to prevent veterans and their families from becoming homeless and to get homeless veterans off the streets. On Saturday, May 21, the program invites you to join them for a BBQ to learn more about the issue of veteran homelessness in South Jersey from men and women who have experienced it. All are welcome for a family day of good conversation, good food and service starting at 1 p.m. at St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church: 43 W Maple Ave, Merchantville, NJ. Visit [CatholicCharitiesCamden.org/Mercy](http://CatholicCharitiesCamden.org/Mercy) for more information.

**May 22:**

Anthony Hollin never quite recovered after falling victim to the Great Recession of 2007-2009. He had worked for 26 years at the same company when it went out of business. The downward spiral of unemployment eventually led to homelessness. Thanks to Catholic Charities' Welfare to Work program, which helps people make the transition from public assistance to employment, Anthony made the connections he needed to find work and get back on his feet. Learn more about the work of Catholic Charities serving the homeless and how you can get involved at [CatholicCharitiesCamden.org/Mercy](http://CatholicCharitiesCamden.org/Mercy).

**May 29:**

Did you know that within the six counties of the Diocese of Camden, there are nine prisons and jails? Across these facilities, over 100 Catholic volunteers serve inmates' spiritual needs while they are in prison. If you feel called to "Visit the Imprisoned" as a volunteer or would simply like to learn more about this ministry, join Catholic Charities for a Prison Ministry Day of Reflection on Saturday, June 4. This year's featured speaker is Father David Link, a well-known prison chaplain from the Diocese of Gary Indiana with an inspiring personal story and commitment to ministering to the imprisoned. Attendees will also hear from former inmates who will share their experiences of prison ministry and its impact on their lives. The event will take

place from 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at the former Sacred Heart School, 1010 East Landis Avenue, Vineland, NJ. Contact Sister Mary Lou Lafferty to register: 856-342-4106. All are welcome.