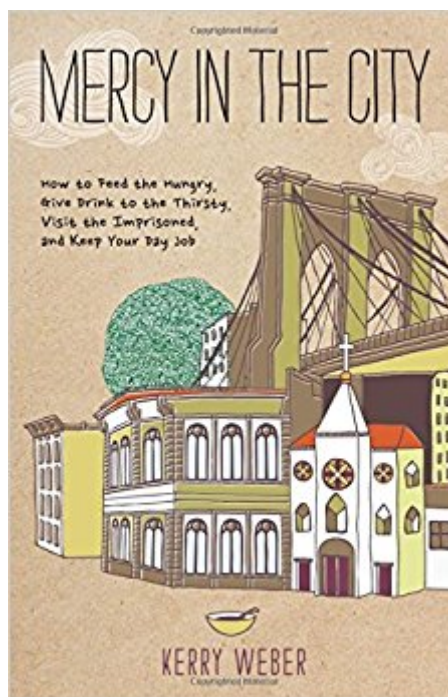


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# Mercy In The City: How To Feed The Hungry, Give Drink To The Thirsty, Visit The Imprisoned, And Keep Your Day Job



## Synopsis

When Jesus asked us to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, and visit the imprisoned, he didn't mean it literally, right? Kerry Weber, a modern, young, single woman in New York City sets out to see if she can practice the Corporal Works of Mercy in an authentic, personal, meaningful manner while maintaining a full, robust, regular life. Weber, a lay Catholic, explores the Works of Mercy in the real world, with a gut-level honesty and transparency that people of urban, country, and suburban locales alike can relate to. *Mercy in the City* is for anyone who is struggling to live in a meaningful, merciful way amid the pressures of a hectic life. For those who feel they are already overscheduled and too busy, for those who assume that they are not religious enough to practice the Works of Mercy, for those who worry that they are alone in their efforts to live an authentic life, *Mercy in the City* proves that by living as people for others, we learn to connect as people of faith.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Kerry Weber is one of the liveliest, brightest, most provocative and most articulate voices on the Catholic scene today. With stories that are both profound and lighthearted (and often at the same time) her marvelous new book will help you locate mercy in your daily life. This is that rare book that will indeed make you laugh and cry, but also pray and serve. Highly recommended. (James Martin, SJ) In her concise, quick moving, and often funny book, Weber chronicles her experience of giving up sweets, alcohol, and - the real kicker- trying to complete all the corporal works of mercy in the 40(ish) days before Easter. (US Catholic Magazine) If you take even one thing

away from this book, youâ™ll be a better person and a better Catholic. (Our Sunday Visitor) There is a renewed spirit of service sweeping through the Catholic Church under the leadership of Pope Francis -- and *Mercy in the City* is a simply wonderful expression of how to go about carrying out that commission to service in the contemporary world of today. Â (Midwest Book Review) If 'change the world' is on your to do list, then *Mercy in the City* should be on your reading list. Kerry Weber's work is instructive, inspirational, filled with heart, and -- perhaps most importantly -- destined to rock your world. If you've ever desired to be Christ to those in need, but didn't quite know how to make it happen in the context of a busy schedule, this is the book for you! (Lisa M. Hendey CatholicMom.com) Kerry Weber's *Mercy in the City* is a must-read book for any contemporary Christian, but especially those in their twenties or thirties, looking to connect with their faith in a practical way. Like Pope Francis, who has called us to refocus on the mercy of God, Weber makes this central Gospel principle tangible with her relatable, insightful, and at times humorous delivery. You will love this book and be challenged by it too! (Daniel P. Horan, OFM) Though Catholic in tradition, Weber's book is catholic in spirit, that is, it provides a vision of everyday saintliness lived out by one who sees herself as being far from saintly. This is its strength and its inspiration. Â (Bruce Epperly) Weber strives to be a contemplative in action, a person who finds God in all things, and who seeks out the liturgical practices of the Church to nourish the desire to give of herself in imitation of Christ. This sister in faith can help to strengthen those who are still finding their way in the Church, or perhaps who have even lost their way for a time. *Mercy*, she reminds us, is at the heart of Jesus's mission. Â (Tim Muldoon) With wit and wisdom, Kerry Weber explores what mercy means in the everyday world. Her clear, spare style reaches the heart and makes one seek just one more brief chapter before putting the book down. Weber focuses on Lent, but this literary treat holds nuggets for all year long. (Sr. Mary Ann Walsh) This engaging book will take you to the heart of what it means to try to practice mercy in a cruel world. It helps us to remember that so much of what we take for granted -- food, water to drink, clothing, and shelter -- are a luxury to many, even in a land of plenty. From a soup line and homeless shelter to death row on San Quentin, the author makes us see the humanity of those we'd prefer to ignore. And if you're looking for a book that cites both Basil the Great and 'The Muppets Take Manhattan,' this is for you! Â (Kathleen Norris) You feel hopeful, excited and inspired about Lent after reading her book. Moreover, you want to try and complete the Corporal Works of Mercy just like Kerry does. Her honesty about the challenges she faced and the realizations she reached is refreshing to read. (Melissa Stevens)

Kerry Weber is a Mercy Associate and Managing Editor of America magazine. She is an alumna of the Mercy Volunteer Corps and of the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. She lives in New York City.

This is a delightful and soul-stirring book. It is simultaneously light and easy to read, while being full of traditional wisdom from the saints. This book fits beautifully with Pope Francis' calls to mercy and service of the poor—certainly a happy coincidence of the Holy Spirit, because Kerry must have tackled the Corporal Works of Mercy as a Lenten project either prior to his election or at the very beginning of his pontificate. Having been educated in an elementary school run by the Sisters of Mercy, it was a pleasure to read some of the quotes from their founder and grow in appreciation for how this charism must have affected my mother and grandmother. Both are women of mercy, who counted the sisters as friends and colleagues in the school. Though my grandmother passed 15 years ago, I felt like I was able to see a new layer in who she was—perhaps this mercy charism that was so present in our local church formed the saintly grandma that I knew more than I ever would have realized without this book. I will be recommending this book to my college students and the parishioners—especially young adults—who are at the campus ministry center where I work. This book is a delight, and is the perfect length!

I really enjoyed this book, though not for the reasons I bought it. The description led me to believe that it would focus more specifically on a collection of ready-to-implement suggestions for getting more involved in charitable work in one's own community (at least that's what I took away from the "How to..." in the title). When I came to appreciate its structure as that of a memoir, rather than a guidebook, I was initially disappointed, but I am quite glad I stuck with it. Ms. Weber writes very engagingly, and I was eager to return to her work each night in my downtime. Her stories of a young single woman in NYC trying to complete works from every category of the works of mercy enumerated in the Sermon on the Mount are touching and challenging. Not a How-to, for sure, but definitely a "couldn't-you...?," in an inspirational, and not in the least heavy-handed way.

Very well written. Thought-provoking and humorous. A combination not often found. Made me want to be a better Catholic but not in a manner that made me feel guilty or unworthy. Often, I felt as if Ms. Weber had crawled inside of my head with her questions about our faith and how to live it often mirroring my own. I am so glad to have found this book. What a 'near to Lent' blessing! Thank you for your words.

America magazine Managing Editor Kerry Weber has written a delightful Lenten reflection on faith-based service to others. Weber writes from the perspective of a millennial Catholic, and her breezy, sincere, and upbeat writing will particularly appeal to young Catholics. Even as a middle aged man, though, I found that I could relate well to her difficulty in “as well as joys of embracing the Works of Mercy. The book would work nicely as part of one’s Lenten renewal program, but equally well for Advent or, for that matter, any time of the year. “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Mt. 22:37-39). Jesus’ prescription for living a good life summarizes the Law and the Prophets, and is as fresh and valid two thousand years later as it was then. Jesus, in “The Good Samaritan” parable, makes it clear that one’s neighbor isn’t just the guy next door, but even your enemy. How, exactly, do you “love your neighbor”? Here the Church provides biblically based precepts for living out Jesus’ Great Commandment. The Works of Mercy, seven corporal (e.g., feed the hungry, visit the imprisoned) and seven spiritual (e.g., forgive offences willingly and comfort the afflicted), give concrete ideas. As Weber shows, they’re not as easy to practice as they might seem. One Lent, Weber resolves to engage in all of the Corporal Works of Mercy. She does not claim to be some sort of Super-Catholic; quite the contrary, her struggles are those of any person: the difficulty of waking up early to serve in a bread line, the discomfort of engaging with street people, the embarrassment of public displays of faith (in her case, literally taking up the cross on the way to Times Square). She is earnest, and not perfect. She easily stands in for each one of us. Some of the activities Weber takes up are common, such as the aforementioned bread line, and others, like interacting with prisoners and the Jesuit chaplain of San Quentin not so. Obviously, trying to cover the Works of Mercy, even just the corporal ones, over the 40 days of Lent is a challenge. As a goal, it may be a little gimmicky and doesn’t speak of commitment. But in the end, as if to head off that potential criticism, Weber takes a major step towards making a permanent commitment to the Works of Mercy. The everydayness of her path to getting there, though, is what makes this book speak so well to the average Catholic “if only they’ll make the small effort to pick this up. The book would make a good gift for that friend (or oneself) who’s always saying he or she wants to get involved with some charitable work, but never quite takes that first step. Weber provides a good dose of moral support. Loyola Press might consider, for future additions, an appendix with links and phone numbers of the larger

establishments that provide volunteer opportunities in the Works of Mercy. Another great reason to buy this book right now for a friend, family member or yourself is that Pope Francis, for whom "mercy" is a key theme of his papacy, has named 2016 as the Jubilee of Mercy. This book will help you join millions of Catholics and other fellow Christians (and Jews, Moslems, "Nones," and atheists) in celebrating and performing Works of Mercy during the Jubilee and, one hopes, beyond.

Mercy in the City arrived today and I read it in one sitting. It is a thoroughly delightful, lighthearted and inspiring look at a young, modern Catholic woman's approach to living the Corporal Works of Mercy. With the liturgical season of Lent fast approaching, Mercy in the City will serve as an inspiration to all who seek to live authentic lives of love and service to others and to those looking to grow spiritually during their Lenten journey. Kerry, thank you for a very witty, enlightening, entertaining and refreshing look at your Lenten experience and for the wonderful reminder that although the sacrifices required in choosing to live a Christian life today are challenging, the rewards are so much greater! A thoroughly enjoyable read! Thank you...

The "how-to" in the title evokes a self-help, a guide that you can follow to practice mercy in real life. But that's not really what this book is. Instead, it is a memoir of one woman's attempt to live all the corporal works of mercy over the course of a single Lent. It's down-to-earth, it's witty, it's full of observations about the connection points between faith and real life. And although it's not a how-to, it certainly has the potential to open your eyes to look at your world differently and see that these works of mercy can hit very close to home, if we'll only pay attention.

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