

Chapter	Big Idea	Mercy Connection
1.	God created the world and continues to love and care for it and for us.	We share in God's life by caring for his creation (clean up parish grounds or other public area)
2.	God gave us a savior, Jesus, who helps us heal our relationship with God.	We bring Jesus' healing love to those who feel excluded (have kids create anti-bullying fliers to post).
3.	God made a covenant with Abraham and gave the Commandments to help form them into a people.	We are called to be community-builders. (arrange to host hospitality for parishioners after Sunday mass)
4.	Jesus gave us the Beatitudes to show us how to live happily in God's kingdom.	We live the Beatitudes by being signs of God's goodness. (arrange to send sympathy cards to those who mourn)
5.	During Ordinary Time, we focus on sacramentals that remind us of the nearness of God.	We are called to bring God's nearness to others. (create sacramental to be given to the elderly or those who are sick)
6.	Through the Incarnation, God became one of us – the Word made flesh.	We care for the bodily needs of others. (team with Loyola Press "People for Others" on a project to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, or shelter the homeless)
7.	The Sacraments celebrate Jesus' presence among us today.	We celebrate the presence of Jesus in the lives of those baptized. (arrange to send letters of welcome to the newly baptized)
8.	Baptism unites us as children of God and calls us to stewardship – sharing our time, talent, and treasure with others.	We are called to practice stewardship. (arrange to assist a younger RE class – tutor or put on skit for their RE lesson)
9.	In Confirmation, we are sealed with the Holy Spirit, our Advocate.	We share in the life of the Spirit when we advocate for others (arrange to send thank you letters to nurses at Christ Advocate hospital)
10.	Advent is a time of hope.	We are called to bring hope to others. (arrange to bring hope at Christmas to those less fortunate)
11.	The unity of the Church is celebrated in different ways.	We are called to work for unity. (arrange for the class to Skype with a class in another location – of different ethnicity)

12.	Through Holy Orders, priests help others to experience the nearness of God.	In baptism, we share in Jesus' priestly ministry of bringing the nearness of God to others. (arrange for children to receive the name of someone to pray for in the week ahead)
13.	Through the Sacrament of Matrimony, husbands and wives build the domestic Church.	We are called to support strong Catholic families. (Arrange to send letters to those in the parish who are newly married or engaged assuring prayers)
14.	By our baptism, we are called to serve others, following the example of Mary.	We are called to serve others. (arrange for class to serve people at Ronald McDonald House)
15.	The Christmas season reminds us that we are called to live lives of holiness.	We grow in holiness by being selfless. (arrange for children to team with Loyola Press "People for Others" to purchase and wrap toys from Target for those in need)
16.	Jesus is the Bread of Life, present in the Eucharist.	As Jesus feeds us, we are called to feed others. (arrange to collect food for a pantry)
17.	The Eucharist fosters an intimate union with Christ who is truly present.	We are called to bring Christ's presence to others. (arrange for children to meet some Ministers of Care and to create something for them to take to those they visit)
18.	Jesus heals our relationship with God through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.	We are called to bring reconciliation to the world. (arrange for kids to host an exhibit of " The f Word: Stories of Forgiveness ")
19.	In the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, those who are seriously ill experience Jesus' healing.	We are called to minister to those who are ill. (arrange for children to make get well cards for parishioners who are sick)
20.	During Lent and Holy Week, we acknowledge Jesus' sacrifice for us.	During Lent, we are called to make sacrifices. (arrange to team with Loyola Press "People for Others" to create care bags for the homeless)

21.	Jesus is the foundation of a moral life.	We are called to make moral choices. (have children create “Making Choices Bookmarks” and arrange to send them to Kolbe House Prison ministry.)
22.	Sin has negative effects on society as a whole.	We are called to struggle against forces that have a negative effect on individual human dignity. (arrange for children to place a Catholic Relief Services Fair Trade Community Order)
23.	Making good moral choices means respecting our bodies and the bodies of others.	We are called to respect our bodies and the bodies of others. (arrange for children to write letters to a magazine, a store, or a TV network, protesting the sexualization of children)
24.	After death, we will be judged on the choices we have made in this life.	We are called to practice Corporal Works of Mercy. (arrange for children to brainstorm and research practical ways to conserve water at home and to write up a list to be published in the parish bulletin)
25.	During the Easter season, we are filled with joy and praise for the Risen Christ.	We express this joy by serving others. (arrange for children to visit Smith Village for the elderly)