

FAMILY *Almsgiving* PROJECT PLANNER

Adopt a family project to help those in need. Consider using the steps below, one for each of the 6 weeks of Lent.

1. IDENTIFY A NEED

- Get ideas from the local newspaper, Catholic Charities website, Corporal works of Mercy, or the Church's Social Justice Teachings
- Talk about what it means to be "marginalized." Who is marginalized in our community?
- Which human need especially pulls at our hearts as a family?

2. LEARN!

- Research the cause you are interested in helping with as a family by reading about it online, talking to local organizations, or by talking to someone who is directly impacted by it.
- *Example: If your family wants to help with food insecurity, reach out to a food pantry to learn more about their work and the people they help.*

3. MAKE AN ACTION PLAN

- Where do these people's needs intersect with the talents/ resources our family has to offer?
- What are we going to do and what steps are involved? (Is it an "event" like a neighborhood food-drive, or a new routine like serving a monthly meal at a shelter?)
- Who else do we want to invite to participate? What do we need to buy/gather/prepare?
- *Let's write it in weeks 4-5 and in our calendar!*

4 & 5. READY. SET. LOVE!

Here are the steps of our action plan:

6. UNPACK THE EXPERIENCE

- What did you learn about from the people we helped? Can you identify with them? How do you think Jesus sees them?
- How do you think our act of love made them feel? What makes you think so?
- How did it make you feel? What do you think Jesus wants to say to us about what we did?
- How will this experience affect how you think, speak, act, or reach out to others in the future? Almsgiving is not just for Lent. How can we make this more of a family lifestyle?

