

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 THE NEED

- Local allows kids to see who they're helping, but long-distance is okay, too.
- Get ideas from: the local newspaper, a social worker, a *Catholic Charities* employee. . . the 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 ABOUT IT

- Research the group of people we want to help and their needs.
- Read related literature or online. Visit the neighborhood. Talk to the people themselves. Call someone already involved in serving them.

3. BRAINSTORM 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, what, when? Who do we need to contact? 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!*



"How beautiful it would be if the poor could occupy in our hearts the place they have in the heart of God!"

- Pope Francis
11-17-19

4 - 5. READY. SET. LOVE!

Here are the steps of our action plan:

6. UNPACK THE EXPERIENCE

- What did you learn about/from the person/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/helping others is not just for Lent. How can we make this more of a family life-style?

