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!

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 lifestyle?

"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

Find this and other resources to share at dmdioce.se/Lent2023