

MCA Prayer Activity All Ages



Remembering the Least of God's People

Goal: To remind students that the task set before us by Jesus is to care for those who are in need.; that we are to do each of the things He says as if we were caring for Jesus, himself.

Leader: During Lent, we are asked to pray, fast, and give alms. Prayer, of course is talking to God; fasting can mean either giving up something we love or giving up a bad habit that keeps us from being close to God. To “give alms” means to show charity to others, especially the poor. It’s a way to express our faith and show that we love our neighbors, as Christ commanded, even if we don’t know them

Reader 1: As we listen to God’s word today, let’s be mindful of His message, asking ourselves, “How can I best care for the least of my brothers and sisters in the world?”

Reader 2: A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew (MT 25: 34-40)

Then the king will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.’

Then the righteous will answer Him and say, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?’

And the King will say to them in reply, ‘Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for Me.’ The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ

Pause for silent reflection

Reader 1: In our schools, our parishes, and our homes, we are blessed to have our true needs met - a roof over our heads, food to eat, and people to care for us. We pray for the grace to recognize and help the poor, who are You in disguise.

Materials Needed: This prayer service, printed for individuals or projected on a smart board. Set an altar with a crucifix, a bible, and a globe to represent the missions. Students may also wear the colors of the World Mission Rosary.

Reader 2: Our response is:

Help me to care for others, Lord.

All: Help me to care for others, Lord.

Reader 1: During Lent, we are called to fast. Many of us will give up candy or snacks. Let our hunger remind us to give alms for children who may not have any food today.

All: Help me to care for others, Lord.

Reader 2: Our fasting may be from watching TV or playing games. In our free time, help us to remember to pray for children who must work to help support their families.

All: Help me to care for others, Lord.

Reader 1: Our extra Lenten prayer time includes going to Mass. Help us, Lord, to remember what a privilege it is to visit You in Your house. Remind us to pray for those who only get a chance to go to Mass a few times a year because there is no church or priest nearby.

ALL: Help me to care for others, Lord.

Reader 2: Lord, if we grumble or complain about fasting or extra prayer time, inspire us to give alms for other children who would gladly give up snacks or games, but have none.

ALL: Help me to care for others, Lord.

Leader: Merciful God, fill our hearts with your love and keep us faithful to the Gospel of charity this Lent. Help us to see You in others, both near and far away. Inspire us to be generous in our fasting, prayer, and almsgiving. We ask for these things in Your name, Jesus. **All: Amen.**

Closing Song: Whatsoever you Do (Jabusch)

Sing along with lyrics here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsYRDt_Bc8A