

HANDS TO
—SERVE—
HEARTS TO
—LOVE—



MIDDLE SCHOOL MISSION WEEK

Dear Families,

Thank you for allowing your middle schooler to serve during our Mission Week! Throughout the week we received inspiration from St. Teresa of Calcutta, or better known as [Mother Teresa](#). We looked to her to understand how to follow Jesus' commandment : Love one another (Jn 13:34).

It was her prayers, her words, and stories of her life that taught us how to love others as Jesus has loved us—with a generous and self-giving love. To “love until it hurts” as Mother Teresa says. In this newsletter I have included some more wisdom for you to share with your families to continue the mission to love one another.

May God continue to bless you and your family this summer, and may you continue to find ways that you can give your “hands to serve” and your “hearts to love.”

God Bless,

Lisa Hartsfield
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Mission Week Photo Album

We served as MISSIONARIES OF CHARITY at the following places:

- [Mission Northeast](#): made cards for Senior Lunch Program, sorted donations, shredded paper
- [HAAM](#) : sorted donations in Resale store and school supply donations
- [Sarah Care Adult Day Care](#) : visiting clients and assisting with activities
- [The Village](#) : working in Stoney Glen's gardens and visiting/assisting clients in Day Learning Center classrooms
- [Catholic Charities](#) : Guadalupe Center's Food Pantry packing food bags
- [Oaks of Righteousness](#) : weeding back courtyard and trimming bushes
- [Atria Senior Living](#) : playing Bingo and organizing resident library
- [Pine Shadow Retreat](#) : playing Bingo and visiting with residents
- [Silverado Memory Care](#) : playing Bingo and visiting with residents
- Provided lunches to and visited with children in a local community in need
- Work in backyard of [Katy Hayes](#), Kingwood resident, to create a new patio
- The Kingwood area on a “Service Scavenger Hunt”

Click on the links to learn more about these ministries. We will continue to serve at many of these locations during our [Service Tuesdays](#).

LOVE BEGINS AT HOME

That poverty comes right there in our own home, even neglect to love. Maybe in our own family we have somebody who is feeling lonely, who is feeling sick, who is feeling worried, and these are difficult days for everybody. Are we there, are we there to receive them, is the mother there to receive the child?

*** Think of a relative or family friend that is lonely, sick, or going through a challenging time. Brainstorm together as a family something you can do to reach out to them this summer**—cooking a meal and bringing it to visit them, babysitting for free, write notes of encouragement and love and mail them, give the person a call, etc.

There is so much suffering, so much hatred, so much misery, and we with our prayer, with our sacrifice are beginning at home. Love begins at home, and it is not how much we do, but how much love we put in the action that we do. It is to God Almighty - how much we do it does not matter, because He is infinite, but how much love we put in that action. How much we do to Him in the person that we are serving.

How does it begin? By praying together. A family that prays together, stays together, and you will love one another as God loves you.

*** Plan some time for you and your family to pray together this summer**— pray a rosary together for a special intention, attend a daily Mass during the week, participate evening of prayer at the First Friday Adoration, read and pray through the Sunday's Gospel, or pray a prayer to the Holy Family at dinner.



YOU DID IT TO ME

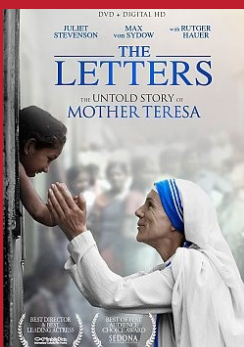
We have been created to love and be loved, and then he has become man to make it possible for us to love as he loved us. He makes himself the hungry one - the naked one - the homeless one - the sick one - the one in prison - the lonely one - the unwanted one - and he says: You did it to me. Hungry for our love, and this is the hunger of our poor people. This is the hunger that you and I must find, it may be in our own home.

*** Read together as a family the gospel passage: Matthew 25:34-40. Discuss what Jesus meant by this passage.** Have everyone trace their hands and write one word on each finger: "You-Did-It-to-Me." Place the hands in a visible place to remind you of seeing Christ in each other and in serving others.

*** Plan a service opportunity for you and your family to do together this summer**— volunteer one of the places we went during Mission week, clean out your closets and donate some items to organizations in need, help plan a game night with the Village or a Senior living home.



Excerpts from Mother Teresa's Nobel Prize Acceptance Speech



Are you and your family looking for a movie to watch during your summer days?

Why not check out one about Mother Teresa?

Take some time to discuss the events of her life and what she did to live out Jesus' command to "Love one Another"

