Session Three

Session 3 - Works of Faith

Objective

Children will explore the needs of people in the world around us and Christ's call to do Works of Faith. They will create an action plan for an outreach program within your own community.

Preparation

Begin preparing for this lesson by having awareness of all philanthropy done in the name of your local parish. There are many Church ministries (at priest's discretion, Philoptochos, IOCC Metropolitan Committee, OCMC etc.) that may have avenues established to aid the hungry, poor, suffering, or homeless members of your local/surrounding community. Charity always beings in the home, and often there are struggling families who may be right next to you wihout knowing. Speak with the leaders of those efforts and gather information that will help you guide the young people to become active in this ministry. The children will be choosing a project to work on as a group, (some ideas are listed later in the session) so have a list of 3-5 charities or projects and have your priest approve them ahead of time.

Also, you will be able to familiarize yourself with the meaning of the "works of faith" by reading some verses from scripture, especially:

Luke 10:25-37 (The Good Samaritan)
1 Corinthians 13:1-13. (Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy…")

Materials Needed

Copy of the Opening and Closing Prayers found at the end of this session (1 per child or a poster)
Bibles – same version for every child
8 chairs or cones per group, paper, pens, tape, and markers
White Board and markers or poster paper
DVD Player or VCR and TV
IOCC promotional video "Unconditional Love," 2006 (select clip that you feel is appropriate for your group; in the event that you cannot watch the entire 11:15, we suggest using the clip from the beginning to 4:13, or begin from 3:00 with Vladi and the children, at 5:00 with the listing of aid provided, or 7:45 with the children in Lebanon to end). Contact www.IOCC.org for a copy.
Icon of the Good Samaritan (check with your parish priest)
A copy of the Family Notes for each child
Plastic table cloth or butcher paper to cover tables
2 ? Quart Leaktite Muli-Mix Calibrated Mixing Container and Lid (One for each child) *(Found at Home Depot in the paint section. Make sure to pick up both the plastic con-*

tainer and matching lid)
Several permanent markers
Exacto knife
Old Magazines
Scissors (One per person)
Modge Podge
Paper plates or bowls (Enough for each person or groups of two)
Foam paint brushes (One per person)

Opening Prayer *Trisagion (Thrice Holy)*
In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Glory to You our God, glory to You!

Heavenly King, Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, present in all places and filling all things, treasury of blessings and Giver of life, come and abide in us. Cleanse us from all impurities and save our souls, gracious Lord.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (3x)

Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever to the ages of ages. Amen.

All Holy Trinity have mercy on us. Lord, forgive our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Your name's sake. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever, to the ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on Earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Your is the kingdom, the power and the glory of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Ice Breaker – What Can I do? Obstacle course
You will set up two to four (depending on the size of your group) identical obstacle courses. You will need eight objects (chairs or cones) to be used as the obstacles. On each obstacle you will tape a piece of paper with the following words: famine, flood, fire, poverty, hunger, illness, earthquake, tornado, hurricane, war, cancer, AIDS (chose words that are appropriate for your group). Place obstacles in a horse shoe shape so that they end up where they started. Divide the kids into teams. Show them how to go through the obstacle course. You may have them go in and out of the obstacles in any configuration you chose.
The kids will start in a straight line in front of each obstacle course. Explain and

demonstrate to the kids that they will be going through an obstacle course and that each chair represents someone who has been afflicted with one of these problems. However, you are racing against the other team, so there is no time to stop. When they get to the last obstacle, there will be a piece of paper there saying "What could I have done?" Have the participants write down one thing that they could have done for one of the people they passed along the way. They will then pass off to the next team member. Who will continue in the same manner. The game will finish when the first team finishes.

State *(paraphrase in your own words)*

Today we will explore the idea of doing Works of Faith by using what God has given you to serve others for His Glory. We will learn about the command that Christ gives people of faith to love one another, offering good works to others in need.

Discuss *(accept all answers and reflect back)*

How did it feel to know that you were passing by people who need help? Do we do that in real life?

Let's read what you listed on the sheets. What sort of things could you have done to help them?

How do you think this could have affected the people had you helped them?

How does this affect you to pass by someone in need?

How have you felt when you saw people on the side of the street begging for money?

What do you do if someone asks you for help?

Bible Reading

(Distribute Bibles) We are going to read about what Christ tells us about serving others and unconditional love, it is called the Parable of the Good Samaritan. Open to Luke 10:25-37. If you get there before us, please begin reading it silently before we discuss it. (Assist the children in locating this section of the Bible.) We can also look at the icon of the Good Samaritan while we read.

KNJV - At that time, a lawyer stood up to put Jesus to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? How do you read?" And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have answered right; do this, and you will live."

But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus

replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was; and when he saw him, he had compassion, and went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; then he set him on his own beast and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' Which of these three, do you think, proved neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed mercy on him." And Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

State *(paraphrase in your own words)*

Why does Christ tell us this Parable? *(To remind us to love our neighbor as ourself)*

In this parable we hear about a man who was stripped, beaten, robbed and left for dead. What happened to him next? *(He was passed by a priest. He was passed by a Levite who is an official helper at the temple. He was helped by a Samaritan man who is considered to be an enemy of the Jews)* Where do we see this in the icon?

What did the Samaritan man do that was different from the others? *(He showed* unconditional love…*he took care of him, and paid for a place for him to stay with asking nothing in return, even though he was thought to be an enemy of the man he helped*)

In the Parable, who does the Samaritan Man symbolize? *(Christ Himself – See the Orthodox Study Bible 1993, p. 167, footnote 10:30-37 for further symbolism)*

What is the message Christ is telling us? *(help,* serve*, LOVE others and we can inherit the Kingdom of Heaven)*

Do you desire in your heart to help others? *(Christ asks us to love our neighbors as ourselves)*

What are **Works of Faith**? *(accept all answers)*

State *(paraphrase in your own words)*

In the world around us sometimes, we don't even notice people who are in need of anything—like their life depends on it—these people want only things that help them stay alive: food, water, medicine, etc. There could be and are people right in our parish, schools, and neighborhoods who need this sort of help. It seems a lot easier to see these people in countries like Ethiopia, India, or Bosnia. But I want you to begin to look a little closer to our home, to our community. People indeed suffer and are lonely to receive love from others.

Let's watch this video clip and see this love in action.

Discuss *(accept all answers and reflect back)*

Have you heard of **IOCC**? *(Explain that they do outreach all over the world for each of us!)*
Tell us one thing that you saw that expressed the love for another that we were talking about.
Do you know anyone who has been affected by these sorts of situations? How about here in the United States?
Who are other people that you can think of who need this sort of help?
What would it be like if you were one of those people—going through the tragedy, and receiving help from **IOCC**?
Have you or your family ever helped another person like **IOCC** helps?
How can you help others if you do not have a lot of money and are not a big organization like **IOCC,** what **works of faith** can you do? (*Accept all reasonable answers*)
Who do you think wants us to love others so much that we would give them everything they need?

Activity

We know that Christ expects that we will love one another. This is His New Commandment! We are to know Him as Lord and King, and love others as He loves us. **Philanthropy** is not just for adults who are able to travel around the world. Let's talk about some young people who decided that they too can **serve** others at home:

Back around the year 2000, two teenaged girls, made a heart to heart decision to help others in need. Because of the warm climate year round in Phoenix, many homeless people lived on the streets, especially downtown near the shelters. So, Molly and Carissa put their heads together and came up with a plan that the youth group would do on behalf of the parish. With the blessing of the presiding priest, their youth director, advisors, and supportive families, **Out-N-About Reach** was developed and underway!

It is a rather simple plan, similar to Meals On Wheels. The teens made bulletin announcements, asked for donations, collected grocery bags, and printed prayer cards with the a message of love in Christ's name. Then, they met at church, formed an assembly line, bagged items, carpooled with volunteer drivers, and met at a central location downtown. They realized right away that their work was blessed by God. He sent a man right to one of the vehicles who knocked on the window and asked for food. This same man was later seen near a deserted lot around the corner with a mob of smiling people around him, like a family passing a feast of sliced bread, sandwich stuffings, snacks, fruit, drinks, and all. God had blessed the beginning of a wonderful and easy way for each of the teens and adults involved to serve others in need. What an experience!

Maybe we could devlop a program like this as well. Let's take a few minutes to brainstorm and begin a plan that would work in our parish and our community. *(Write their ideas on a white board and share, merge, and develop them with one another. Then, vote on one plan to go forward with, leaving the others for the future. Let them know that you will be sure all of their families are informed so that they will know the plan, possible dates, and the need for their support. Orchestrate it so that the children do as much of the work as possible.)*

Arts and Crafts – Caring Canisters *(Paraphrase in your own words)*

Each us probably has spare change in a pocket, a junk drawer, or in a pair of jeans that just got washed. Talk to your family about collecting the spare change in your canisters. You will be surprised what you may just find in your couch. It will all add up. To help us start our new JOY service ministry, we will be making Caring Canisters. You will collect the spare change and we will collect it at our meeting on (pick a date). You will be cutting out words and pictures from magazines which remind us of the project that we will be working on this year. You will then glue the magazine pictures to the canisters to decorate it. Be sure not to cover the hole in the lid for the money you collect.

State *(Paraphrase in your own words)*

As People of Faith we are asked to do **Works of Faith**. We now know of the work that **IOCC** does for the church and for all of us all over the world. We saw in the video that even the smallest act of kindness or the smallest gift of food can change someone's life.

Christ asks us to love our neighbor as ourselves. You do not need lots of money to give to others, just **unconditional love**, so your challenge is to leave here today and find one person in our community you can **serve** by a simple act of kindness.

Closing Prayer

For those in great sorrow you are joy, and for the oppressed, a protection. And for the hungry, their food. Comfort unto those estranged; You are a staff to the blind. Visitation of all those sick, and to those held by pain. Shelter and a comfort, and to the orphaned, an aid.

Mother, of our God in the highest, You who are the Spotless One, hasten, save your servants from their sin, we ask of you.

~Closing Troparion of Paraklesis

Again we pray for the protection of this holy church, and city and every city and land from wrath, famine, pestilence, earthquake, flood, fire, sword, foreign invasions, civil strife, and accidental death. That our good and loving God may be merciful, gracious and favorable to us by turning and keeping from us all wrath and sickness, and deliver us from His just rebuke, and have mercy on us.

-Blessing of the Loaves

Expanded Ideas

Provide IOCC Prayer Journals for each of the kids at the end of the meeting. They can be ordered through the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Religious Education Department 1-800-566-1088 or e-mail religoused@goarch.org. They will be sent to you free of charge except for the cost of shipping.

Ask someone from your local IOCC Metropolitan Committee to come speak to the JOY about the work IOCC does with children and families in honor of IOCC Sunday November 18 or have JOY sponsor a coffee hour raising money for IOCC.

Contact homeless and domestic violence shelters for women and families to see what kind of items they need for children in shelter and sponsor an event during coffee hour at church.

Read Uncle Willie and the Soup Kitchen by DyAnne DiSalvo-Ryan as introduction to hospitality to the homeless and hungry. Then discuss how families and parish ministries may also be able to offer this hospitality by visiting a shelter or hosting a meal at the parish fellowship hall.

Glossary

Charity - Generosity and helpfulness especially toward the needy or suffering

IOCC – In response to a need expressed by members of our Orthodox Christian community, International Orthodox Christian Charities, Inc. (IOCC) was established in March 1992 as the official international humanitarian organization of the Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas (SCOBA). In seeking to provide assistance to the poor, either in response to emergencies or long term socio-economic development needs, IOCC's fundamental policy is to develop a sustainable indigenous capacity to carry out such programs. All programs are guided by the two goals of program integrity and the highest standards of stewardship to donors.

Philanthropy - (Gr. – philanthropia meaning loving humanity) 1. goodwill to fellowmen; especially: active effort to promote human welfare 2. a philanthropic act or gift 3. an organization distributing or supported by philanthropic funds

Service- the work performed by one that serves

Unconditional Love – Not conditional or limited love, see 1 Cor. 13:1-13

Works of Faith – Using what God has given you to serve others for His Glory

Additional Resources

In addition to IOCC or other parish ministries, the following are charities where kids benefit from the money that is raised:

alexslemonade.org – Founded by a four year old girl with cancer. Hold a lemonade stand to raise money for childhood cancers.

stbasil.goarch.org – Raise money for programs of St. Basil Academy.

lunchforlife.org - Donate your lunch money for kids with neuroblastoma

naehcy.org – (National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth) Click on educational recourses to find organizations in your local area. Promotes education and reading for homeless children
roomtogrow.org – Hold a baby shower, collect books or raise money to help fight early childhood poverty
caninecompanions.org – Raise money to train a dog to help children and adults with disabilities to live independently or consider training a dog yourself.

Arts and Crafts - Caring Canister

Supplies Needed

Plastic table cloth or butcher paper to cover tables
2 ? Quart Leaktite Mulit-Mix Calibrated Mixing Container and Lid (One for each child) *(Found at Home Depot in the paint section. Make sure to pick up both the plastic container and matching lid.)*
Several permanent markers
Exacto knife
Old Magazines
Scissors (One per person)
Modge Podge
Paper plates or bowls
Foam paint brushes (One per person)

Directions

With the exacto knife, precut a slot 2 in. x ? in on the lid of each container
Cover tables with plastic table cloth or butcher paper
Fill bowls or plates with Modge Podge for children to share
Pass out a scissor, foam paint brush, lid and a container to each child
Have each child write their name on the bottom of each container and each lid
Instruct children to cut pictures and words out of the magazines to make a collage that represents the project that you have picked as a group
Remind children not to cover the slot on the tope of the canister.
They may seal the lid and the container as to create the Caring Canister if they do not want access to the money until it is collected. They should not cover the bottom on the container.
If they want access to the money to count what they have then they should decorate the lid separately from the container

Family Notes - Works of Faith

Today your child(ren) learned how People of Faith are called by Christ to do **Works of Faith**. They chose a service project to do as a JOY group and made up an action plan. They also made a "Caring Canister" in which they will collect spare change to go towards their project. To find out a little of what they learned, ask the following questions:

What is IOCC?

What can you tell me about the Parable of the Good Samaritan?

What do you think our family can do to serve others?

Models of Works of Faith in November

Sts. Kosmas and Damianos (1)

St. Nektarios (9)

St. Katherine (25)

Activities

As a family, visit the International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) website at www.iocc.org and visit the Kids Page. You will find some activities, information on children in countries which IOCC helps as well as instructions on "Packing a School Kit" for needy children around the world. If you visit the section that says "Get Involved", click on Emergency Kits and you will find kits for children, babies, school, health and emergency clean up. This is a great way to teach your children about giving around the holiday season.

Read the story of the Hospitality of Abraham (Gen. 18:1-15) Discuss how the whole family wants to prepare as if angles will visit their home. Set an extra place at the table throughout the month. Pray for those in need to food, drink, shelter and safety.

Skip dinner out and send money to IOCC or other charity. Encourage use of the IOCC Prayer Journal in your child's prayer life.

As a family, read Uncle Willie and the Soup Kitchen by DyAnne DiSalvo-Ryan as introduction to hospitality to the homeless and hungry, as possibly visit a shelter or soup kitchen.

For Further Information

A great resource to help your family with additional service ideas is A Kids Guide to Giving by Freddi Zeiler (Innovative Kids, 2006). It is full of kid friendly charities, researched and organized by a 14 year old girl who wanted to make a difference. It can be ordered through Borders Books. Another resource for parents is Where Moth and Rust Do Not Consume: An Anthology on Christian Giving by Fr. Anthony Coniaris, available at Light-n-life.com.

Session 3 Prayers

Opening Prayer *Trisagion (Thrice Holy)*

In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Glory to You our God, glory to You!

Heavenly King, Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, present in all places and filling all things, treasury of blessings and Giver of life, come and abide in us. Cleanse us from all impurities and save our souls, gracious Lord.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (3x)

Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever to the ages of ages. Amen.

All Holy Trinity have mercy on us. Lord, forgive our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Your name's sake. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

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Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on Earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Your is the kingdom, the power and the glory of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Closing Prayer

For those in great sorrow you are joy, and for the oppressed, a protection. And for the hungry, their food. Comfort unto those estranged; You are a staff to the blind. Visitation of all those sick, and to those held by pain. Shelter and a comforting, and to the orphaned, an aid.

Mother, of our God in the highest, You who are the Spotless One, hasten, save your servants from their sin, we ask of you.

~Closing Troparion of Paraklesis

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-Blessing of the Loaves