November 2019

Family Supplement

Service

We began this month’s exploration of “Becoming Human” by discussing *service,* discerning the difference between helping, fixing, or serving. The gospel passage of Christ Feeding five thousand people (Matthew 14:13-21) was referenced. The lesson continued to examine the relationship between prayer and service, and what is meant during the liturgy when we are told to, “go forth in peace.” We encourage you to continue the conversation by asking your child what they learned as well as exploring the resources on this page.

For Discussion:

* What does service look like in our home?
* Why is service important to our relationship with Christ?
* How can we build on service in our family life?

*Make a plan for your family by setting attainable goals that everyone can share in. See the “Activity” section below for ideas. Talk to your parish priest or spiritual father for further guidance.*

Saint Story

Read the life of St. Maria of Paris:

<http://ww1.antiochian.org/christianeducation/saints-recent-decades/st-maria-paris>

How did St. Maria’s practice of *service* bring her closer to Christ?

Bible Verse

“For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’” *-Galatians 5:13-14*

Cultivating Lives of Service

How do we plant seeds of selfless love and sacrificial service in our children’s lives? In this webinar, Katrina Bitar discusses how to stand alongside our children and seek, together, to serve others in all aspects of our lives. Katrina Bitar has been the Director of the YES Program of FOCUS North America since 2009 (Fellowship of Orthodox Christians United to Serve).

<https://www.goarch.org/en/-/cultivating-lives-of-service-with-our-children>

Consider how you can build an attitude of Christ-centered service in your children’s hearts as well as your own.

Activity

As a family, watch this short video from FOCUS North America.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-VPgyXyYVoE>

Discuss how you can see people you meet as living icons of Christ, and treat them with the respect and love you would offer to Him? Decide on a charitable project your family will adopt—close to home or through an organization such as FOCUS North America. Remind everyone in your family that your project honors the living icons it aims to benefit.

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“Give from the heart since each person is the very icon of God incarnate in the world.”

– St. Maria of Paris