



Saint Margaret Mary Parish Religious Education  
Religious Education Program in cooperation with the  
St. Vincent De Paul Society

### **IDEAS FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE**

**Please call the St. Vincent DePaul Society members listed for assistance. If you are unable to reach them you may call Louise Bridge at the religious education office 860-644-2549.**

**Monthly Food Collection:** Help is needed by older students and adults to load the St. Vincent DePaul truck with the food donated on the fourth Sunday of each month. Contact Rob Nelli 860-644-4449.

**Christmas Giving Tree:** Help is needed to prepare gift tags and other odd jobs necessary to make the annual Christmas new gifts collection a success. Contact Rob Nelli 860-644-4449.

**Books for Children:** Many underprivileged children would love a book of their very own. You can help introduce a child to reading just for fun by donating your gently used books. Call Joe Ursone 860-644-5033.

**Collect Hats & Mittens:** Classes or small groups may collect new or nearly new hats and mittens for children of all ages to keep warm this winter. Call Joe Ursone 860-644-5033.

**Foster Care Placement Packs:** There is an on-going need for placement packs. A class or grade could choose to assemble one or more, perhaps with each student bringing in an item per week until a pack is complete. Or, they could have a can collection or something to raise money to buy the items. Placement packs are used by child protection social workers when a child must be moved quickly to a foster home. The child is often being removed for an unsafe situation and can only leave with (literally) the clothes on her/his back. The social worker would use the placement pack to ease the difficult adjustment faced by the child. All items should be new or like new. Packs for all ages are always needed. The packs should be given to Lorna Shaker (860-644-3285) for distribution.

**Make tray favors:** Classes or small groups may make cards, decorations, gifts, etc. for Meals on Wheels (candy is not usually appropriate because of diet restrictions for many of the clients. Call South Windsor Human Services at the Community Center. 860-648-6361

**Help for Haiti:** School groups can help our poorest brothers and sisters in Haiti by collecting much needed items, such as, canned tuna in oil, towels ( even ones with holes in them), wash cloths, sheets, nail clippers, baby rattles, teething rings and much much more. Or you may help with machine sewing. It is easy even for a beginner. Volunteers will do an age-appropriate presentation for combined classes. Haiti is one of the poorest countries in the world. Won't you help these desperate and courageous people? Call Judy Sutter 860-643-1368.

**Toiletries for shelters:** Classes or individual students are needed to collect personal care items for people in shelters or sort and package donations for clients. Call Joe Ursone 860-644-5033.

**School/Craft Supplies:** Collect school and/or craft supplies for needy children. Call Joe Ursone 860-644-5033.