



Options for the Poor and Vulnerable

Keeping Children Warm This Christmas Season



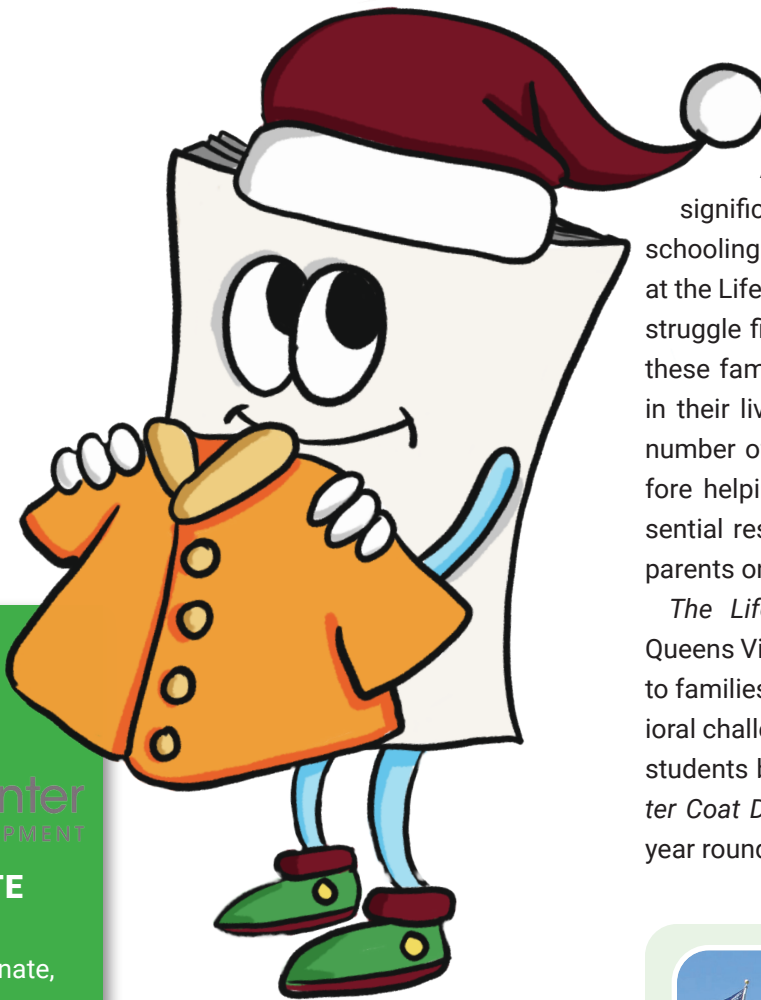
by Heather Orfanos
Grade 8

The Lifeline Center for Child Development Winter Coat Drive

allows us to give back to others and celebrate the true meaning of Christmas. This ties into our patron saint of charity and volunteers, St. Vincent de Paul. We follow the patron saint's mission to aid others. Parents already worry about how to help their children in the best way possible. We can support these families by providing their children with the proper attire for this colder season. When donating new hats and coats to these struggling families, not only are you helping St. Vincent de Paul achieve his mission of shaping a compassionate society, but you are embracing the true spirit of Christmas.

The Lifeline Center for Child Development Winter Coat Drive is run by a genuinely excellent organization that encourages others to support needy families. This non-profit organization helps ease the lives of the parents of emotionally and behavioral health-challenged children and the children themselves by aiding them as they journey through the cold and harsh winter months.

In an interview with Mr. Rolando Infante, he discussed how his Catholic faith developed a foundation for his volunteer work. Mr. Infante not only



for Child Development being a parent with a child diagnosed with autism and ADHD and the way Lifeline Center has significantly helped prepare his son for future schooling. He also explained how many families at the Lifeline Center for Child Development tend to struggle financially, and donations to help support these families make a more significant difference in their lives than they may expect. A substantial number of schools have limited resources. Therefore helping these struggling families provide essential resources for their children. This gives the parents one less thing to worry about.

The Lifeline Center for Child Development in Queens Village, NY, makes significant contributions to families with children with emotional and behavioral challenges. We can help aid the school and its students by making donations not only to the *Winter Coat Drive* the Lifeline Center organizes but all year round.



Lifeline Center
FOR CHILD DEVELOPMENT

HOW TO DONATE
Visit their website at lifelinecenter.org/donate, call (718) 740-4300, or text LIFELINE to 44321.

participates in the Coat Drive but also conducts government relations on behalf of Consolidated Edison Company of New York as a Manager in Regional & Community Affairs. He also practices good corporate citizenship as Con Edison annually donates \$10 million to non-profit organizations. The work Mr. Infante conducts demonstrates his outstanding contribution to St. Vincent de Paul's mission to aid others at the expense of his own time and effort. Furthermore, Mr. Infante discussed his own experience at The Lifeline Center



This edition of The Tablet Jr. was created with the contributions of student journalists from Visitation Academy, Brooklyn, NY



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Hunger in Ukraine: A Humanitarian Effort



by **Alessia Dragonetti**
Grade 7

On February 24, 2022, the people in Ukraine were forced to evacuate their shelters and find safety elsewhere. Russia invaded the country and caused unbearable conditions for people. They face many problems because food is scarce. Other contributing factors were the coronavirus pandemic, economic instability, shipping shortages, and agricultural issues caused by severe weather conditions. Many countries and charitable organizations are working to address this problem.

The first organization to help the people who were

starving was the World Central Kitchen (WCK), led by founder Jose Andres. He and his wife Patricia started the organization in 2010 and sent food to Haiti after a devastating earthquake. They support local restaurants, cook for neighbors, deliver food kits and generators, and fix broken water supplies. Chef Andres says this because “food is not a luxury reserve for the lucky few. It’s a universal human right to live free from hunger.” (wck.org). Caritas sisters, who reach out to the poor and vulnerable in the hands of God, teamed up with Chef Andres to feed the Ukrainians fleeing the border of Chernihiv-Bryansk. They serve hot meals under very harsh conditions. This combined humanitarian effort exhibited a significant amount of care for others.

One belief of Catholicism is volunteering and

self-sacrifice that allows people to live life fully. The World Central Kitchen follows this principle. WCK describes its purpose as helping people by volunteering. The Mission Sisters of the Most Holy Redeemer were founded in Germany in 1957 and branched out into Ukraine in 2001. Sister Teodora Shulak, provincial superior of the Mission Sisters of the Most Holy Redeemer, is also assisting in this fight for survival and is thankful for all people’s donations. Sister Shulak states, “Thanks to your generosity, we could help many people suffering until now with medicines, products, generators, clothes, and other necessities for living things.” (catholicextension.org). People worldwide donate time, money, and materials to help Ukrainians during this challenging time. This illustrates people making an effort to help others, an actual demonstration of the teachings of God.



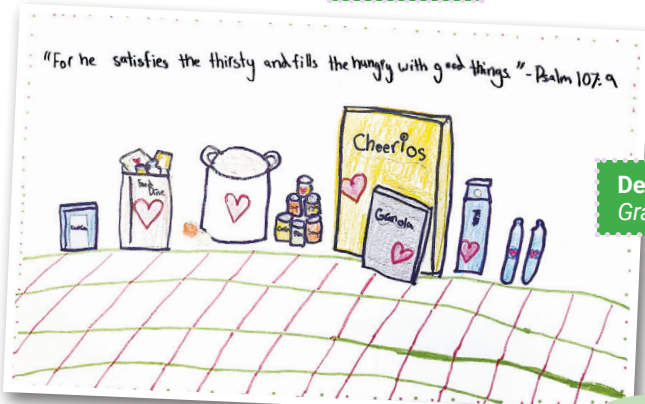
Giuliana D.
Grade 5



Emmanuela O.
Kindergarten



Matilda T.
Grade 5



Delilah S.
Grade 5



Harley M.
Grade 5



Sophia H.
Grade 5



Stephanie P.
Kindergarten



Francesca M.
Grade 5

Art on the Walls

ASK Sister Elizabeth



How does Jesus help people today? Where do people get their food from if they don't have any?

Isabel H. Grade 2

Dear Isabel, thank you for this beautiful question. Every creature is made in the image of God, and Jesus teaches us to show love to one another. People who don't have food rely on the provisions of the government, charity organizations, Churches, and agencies that run food pantries. Many companies and good-hearted individuals donate generously to these centers for the care of those without food. In Matthew 25:35-40 Jesus said that whenever we give food to the hungry, water to the thirsty, clothes to the naked, or visit the sick and prisoner, we do it for him. As Christians, we are the Christ that people see and as such, are called to pay attention to the needs of the hungry or the needy within our community. You and your family can help feed a hungry person this Christmas by donating food to your parish/ community food pantries.

Are homeless people poor forever?

Gisella P. Grade 2

Nice question Gisella, and thank you for your concern for the homeless. Homelessness is a temporary condition depending on the situation of the individual. People can be homeless due to natural accidents or man-made problems. They are those who became homeless because of hurricane devastation, fire incidents, loss of a job, or not being able to find a job. There is always some solution to some of the homelessness, which includes acquiring new skills and engaging in personal and professional development programs that creates opportunities for a better living. However, some homeless people might be in a situation where they have to rely on the government and city agencies for long-term support.

Who helps people who can't help themselves?

Teresa S. Grade 2

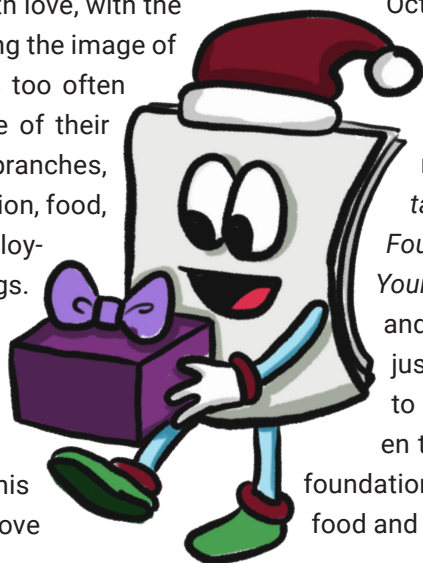
Hi Teresa, Thank you for this beautiful question! We are supposed to be our brother's and sisters' keepers and offer them our support in times of need. We live in a society where many people are connected in many ways. The physically challenged can get some assisted living, and the poor often get help from others. We are a caring community that shares the burdens and problems of one another through some state, city, and religious sponsored programs and agencies as well as individuals who donate generously to those in need. The NO KID HUNGRY and Catholic Charities are examples of many organizations that work hard in helping the poor with basic needs such as food, education, and so forth.

God's Call To Help Those In Need



by **Sophia Rosero**
Grade 7

As Catholics, we believe that God is Love, so we must ensure that love is abided by and made sacred in our every action. We are called to bring the Word of God to others. Because He is Love, we can do so by treating others with love, with the dignity given to them, and respecting the image of God within their creation which is too often disrespected in various ways. One of their poverty, which has many different branches, takes the forms of a lack of education, food, shelter, clothing, healthcare, employment, water, and many other things. The violation of human dignity in these ways is a sin, yet it can be combated by God's holiest Love, especially when we share it. Jesus Christ allows us to restore this human dignity using the original love



He gave us and restored us with His sacrifice on the Cross. The Works of Mercy are one such opportunity, allowing us to give back each thing stolen and return to the kindness of God. Visitation Academy of Bay Ridge Brooklyn helps to partake in this through the drives it holds. It has held multiple drives in the 2022 school year, three of which will be listed here.

One was titled "Coats for the Cold," starting on October 26, 2022. This drive was connected to the El-Rose Foundation, which has been collecting coats for five years and is reaching its sixth. *Project Hospitality Men's Shelter*, *Boys & Girls Foundation*, *Salvation Army*, *Warm Your Hearts*, *Good Counsel Homes*, and *CAMBRA-Women's Shelter* are just some of the establishments to which the coats have been given through the last five years in this foundation. Visitation Academy also held a food and baby drive collecting for the Ron-

ald McDonald House Pantry. We also collected grains such as rice, macaroni, and pasta in addition to dried cereals such as cornflakes, cheerios, and raisin bran and snacks such as fruits, nuts, raisins, chips, and granola bars.

We collected soap, lotions, toys, diapers, and wipes for the baby drive. These items are given to family members awaiting the recovery of their ill children. One of the next drives held at the school was a Migrant Clothing drive, which collected shoes, school supplies, winter clothing, pajamas, coats, undergarments, hats, scarves, gloves, and items for the care of infants. As has been demonstrated, we must trust and follow Christ when He says, "You need only one thing. Go and sell all you have and give the money to the poor, and you will have riches in heaven." (Mark 10:21)

TEACHER GUIDES

Instructional Resource Guides are available for each issue of the Tablet Jr. You can find the supplemental lessons on [CTNBQ.ORG/TABLETJR](https://ctnbq.org/tabletjr)

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FIND THE WORDS

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|---------|--------------|----------|------------|
| CARE | EFFORT | POVERTY | SHARE |
| CONCERN | EQUALITY | REFUGEES | UNIVERSAL |
| CRISIS | HUMANITARIAN | SELFLESS | VULNERABLE |

Diocesan History Corner

by Joseph Coen



Bright Christmas Funds St. Mary Mother of Jesus Light and Snow show 2015.

A Long Legacy of Giving

The Tablet Bright Christmas began in the mid-1960s. The “2nd Annual ‘Tablet’ Christmas Appeal”, was announced in an article by long time journalist Richard “Dick” Ryan in the December 2, 1965 issue of The Tablet. By December 16th, it had raised \$824.53. By December 30th, the first letter thanking The Tablet was published. In it, Rev. Benito M. Perri expressed the gratitude of St. Margaret Mary Parish, LIC, that families could eat a full meal and that children received clothing and presents on Christmas.

After skipping 1966, a “3rd Annual Christmas Appeal” was announced in December 1967. The front-page article mentioned the needs of parishes such as Our Lady of the Presentation, Brooklyn, which had over 5,000 Catholic children in need.

By 1968, it had become an annual event called “The Tablet’s Bright Christmas Appeal.” An illustration

accompanied the front-page announcement by long time Tablet artist John McAlinden.

The 20th appeal in 1985 had a goal of \$20,000. Responses came from Florida, Texas, Colorado, and Michigan. In 1995, donations had risen to \$78,735 at the Christmas issue. Ten years later, the appeal brought \$125,000.

In 2015, Editor Ed Wilkinson said the average donation was \$33, but individual contributions ranged from \$1,000 to \$1. Some families made annual donations for 30-40 years. Each year of its existence, individuals, families, groups from schools, and organizations have met those needs through the Bright Christmas Appeal.

Joseph Coen, C.A., is the archivist of the Diocese of Brooklyn.

Fun Activities for You from **Sadlier** www.sadlier.com



The Call to Love Another Catholic Social Teaching guides us to care for those in need. Caring is being attentive and responsive to the needs of others, particularly those who are suffering or in need.

As a student, it can be difficult to think of how you can help someone in need. Take a few minutes to list things you think someone your age needs. Does your list include things like sneakers and a new phone, or does it include having a friend or needing a family member to say, “I love you.”?

To better understand, let’s use Lectio Divina and read a Gospel passage. Lectio Divina is a practice that began around the year 325. It draws you into the Scripture reading so you can better understand what Jesus is teaching and how to apply that to your life.

Read the Gospel of Mark 12: 28-34. It reminds us that we are all God’s children and that we need to be present to one another. Re-read this same Gospel. Is there a word or phrase that stands out?

Talk about this word or phrase with your family.. How can that word or phrase become a part of your daily life. What else does this Gospel tell us? Jesus tells us that we should treat one another like we would like to be treated. Does this change the way you think you can help those in need?

Use the link below to read about Saint Juan Diego and how Mary filled his tilma with roses. Mary showed us that God loves each person, especially those who are needy or mistreated, or are poor and vulnerable. God wants us to respect and care for all people. Be sure to complete the Intermediate activity.

SEE DIRECTIONS ONLINE: WWW.RELIGION.SADLIERCONNECT.COM/LIVESOFTHESAINTS > Choose December

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