



Catholic Charities
Diocese of Youngstown

Providing Help. Creating Hope.

2023-2024

First Step to Service Program

GRADES 9-12

Our Common Home

January 2024:

Poverty Awareness
through Sustainability
and Simple Living

"Helping Hands"

Design Contest and Service Project

LESSON SUMMARY

Poverty Awareness through sustainability and simple living aligns well with Catholic social teachings, as it reflects several key principles that are central to Catholic social thought.

Preferential Option for the Earth: There is a growing recognition within the Catholic Church of the interconnectedness between environmental issues and poverty. Pope Francis, in his encyclical "Laudato Si'," emphasizes the need to care for both the earth and the poor, as they are deeply intertwined.

Simplicity and Detachment: Emphasizing simple living encourages individuals to detach themselves from excessive material possessions and consumerism. This aligns with Catholic teachings on the virtue of detachment, which allows individuals to focus on what truly matters and be more attentive to the needs of others.

Solidarity: Poverty awareness and sustainability initiatives promote a sense of solidarity with those who are less fortunate. It fosters a spirit of empathy and a willingness to act collectively to address social and environmental challenges.

Dignity of the Human Person: Catholic social teachings affirm the inherent dignity of every human person, regardless of their economic status. By raising awareness about poverty and advocating for sustainable living, the focus is on preserving and enhancing the dignity of those living in poverty.

Promotion of Our Common Home: Poverty awareness and sustainability efforts ultimately aim at promoting the common good of society. By addressing poverty and environmental concerns, the well-being of individuals and communities is improved, creating a more just and equitable society.

ACTIVITY

Step 1: Based on the overall theme of this project "Helping Hands" - choose a prompt from the reading above as your inspiration for a digital t-shirt design. Develop your t-shirt design by using a variety of software options such as ADOBE, GIMP, CANVA, or any other design software that you have access to.

Step 2: Get your parent or guardian to approve and sign your entry submission, and send your entry form and digital artwork to Catholic Charities by January 31, 2024. **See student entry form for complete rules and guidelines.**

Step 3: Catholic Charities will select 3 finalists to move to the next stage of the project: a live fundraising campaign through our Bonfire apparel store. If your design is selected - **PROMOTE IT AS A FUNDRAISER TO YOUR COMMUNITY OF FRIENDS AND FAMILY.**



This program is made possible through grant funding issued by
The Subcommittee on Catholic Home Missions, USCCB.

If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Lucarelli
@ 330-744-8451 or jlucarelli@youngstowndiocese.org.



Catholic Charities

Diocese of Youngstown

Providing Help. Creating Hope.

2023-2024

First Step to Service Program

TEACHER RESOURCE

Our Common Home

January 2024:

Poverty Awareness
through Sustainability
and Simple Living

"Helping Hands"

Design Contest and Service Project

- **All students, grades 9-12, registered in a Diocesan Catholic High School are eligible to participate.**
- **Students may enter as many different designs as they like - but each student is only eligible to have a single design selected as a finalist.**
- **The overall theme of this project is "Helping Hands" - Helping those living in poverty.**
- **Contest officially opens on January 1 - and the entry deadline is **January 31, 2024**. Entry form + digital artwork must be submitted together in the same email message.**
- **A parent/guardian signature is required to be eligible for a prize.**

• RULES:

- Digital representation must follow the project theme or learning prompts.
- One signed entry form required per digital media submission. Students may enter more than one digital design, but each student is only eligible to have a single design selected as a finalist, and each submission must have it's own signed entry form.
- Students must adhere to school policy and code of conduct throughout the project.
- All digital designs must be original artwork. Plagiarism and the use of copyrighted materials will not be permitted.

• SUBMISSION:

- Entry form and digital artwork file must be submitted by email to charities@youngstowndiocese.org by the posted deadline.

• FILE FORMAT:

- The following digital formats are accepted: .jpg, .png, .gif, .pdf, .svg

• FILE SIZE REQUIREMENTS:

- Any single digital file should not exceed 10 MB.



PRIZES

TOP THREE FINALISTS:

per finalist

- \$25.00 Gift Card
- Custom Design T-Shirt
- T-Shirt for Principal

www.bonfire.com
BONFIRE



GRAND PRIZE WINNER:

- \$100.00 Cash
- T-Shirt for Teacher
- Agency Prize* - up to a \$500 matching gift reward, based on the overall sales of the winning design.

If your student wins the Grand Prize, the Catholic Charities agency in your county will also receive a cash prize to help serve those living in poverty. The Grand Prize Winner will be invited to present the award to the agency for a photo op with our agency director.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Help answer any questions students might have about this activity.
- Allow students to work on design during class time, if possible.
- Print entry forms as needed by students
- Spread the word: promote this activity in your classroom!
- Remind students when deadline is approaching.

Estimated Activity Time:

- Teacher: 15 Minutes
- Parents: 5 Minutes
- Students: Variable



This program is made possible through grant funding issued by The Subcommittee on Catholic Home Missions, USCCB. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Lucarelli @ 330-744-8451 or jlucarelli@youngstowndiocese.org.



Catholic Charities

Diocese of Youngstown

Providing Help. Creating Hope.

2023-2024

First Step to Service Program

STUDENT ENTRY FORM

Our Common Home

January 2024:

Poverty Awareness
through Sustainability
and Simple Living

"Helping Hands"

Design Contest and Service Project

- **All students, grades 9-12, registered in a Diocesan Catholic High School are eligible to participate.**
- **Contest officially opens on January 1 - and the entry deadline is **January 31, 2024.****
- **Entry form + digital artwork must be submitted together in the same email message.**
- **A parent/guardian signature is required to be eligible for a prize.**

RULES:

- Digital representation must follow the project theme or learning prompts.
- One signed entry form required per digital media submission. Students may enter more than one digital design, but each student is only eligible to have a single design selected as a finalist, and each submission must have it's own signed entry form.
- Students must adhere to school policy and code of conduct throughout the project.
- All digital designs must be original artwork. Plagiarism and the use of copyrighted materials will not be permitted.

SUBMISSION:

- Entry form and digital artwork file must be submitted by email to charities@youngstowndiocese.org by the posted deadline.

FILE FORMAT:

- The following digital formats are accepted: .jpg, .png, .gif, .pdf, .svg

FILE SIZE REQUIREMENTS:

- Any single digital file should not exceed 10 MB.



**To submit entry form electronically, scan or take a pic!*

PRIZES

TOP THREE FINALISTS:

per finalist

- \$25.00 Gift Card
- Custom Design T-Shirt
- T-Shirt for Principal

GRAND PRIZE WINNER:

- \$100.00 Cash
- T-Shirt for Teacher
- Agency Prize* - up to a \$500 matching gift award, based on the overall sales of the winning design.

**If you win the Grand Prize, the Catholic Charities agency in your county will also receive a cash prize to help serve those living in poverty. The Grand Prize Winner will be invited to present the award to the agency for a photo op with our agency director.*

AGREEMENT

I (student) hereby submit that this digital design is entirely my original work. It was created independently, without any unauthorized assistance or collaboration with others. I hereby confirm that the ideas, concepts, and creative expressions are solely my own and do not infringe upon the intellectual property rights of any third party, including copyright, trademark, or other proprietary rights.

STUDENT NAME _____ / GRADE _____

SCHOOL NAME _____ / TEACHER NAME _____

CONTACT INFO  _____  _____

STUDENT Signature _____ / Date _____

PARENT Signature _____ / Date _____

Signatures Required



This program is made possible through grant funding issued by The Subcommittee on Catholic Home Missions, USCCB.

If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Lucarelli @ 330-744-8451 or jlucarelli@youngstowndiocese.org.