

INTRODUCTION

As we move into Advent and anticipate the coming of Christ, we tend to look at the abundance in our lives and in our Christmas customs. It is a good time to also consider people living in other parts of the world whose lives are very different from our own. Here is a variety of ideas to share as families helping all to get a better sense of immensity and diversity of the family of God that we all belong too.



ACTION OPTION 1

The Milwaukee Archdiocese for World Mission Ministries suggests an awareness and consciousness raising this season of people and cultures in another part of the world. Our Archdiocese has a sister parish, Sagrada Familia, in the Dominican Republic. On the web site <http://www.archmil.org/sagradafamilia> there are virtual tours and weekly stories along with general information about the parish.

ACTION OPTION 2

The US Catholic Bishop's (USCCB) in collaboration with Catholic Relief Services (CRS) in their Catholic Campaign Against Global Poverty have created a program for Advent called "For Unto Us a Child is Born." They encourage us to "seize this opportunity to encourage the Catholic community—especially young Catholics—to learn about Catholic teaching on poverty and participate in the Catholic Campaign Against Global Poverty. This is particularly appropriate during the season of Advent as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ, who taught us to have special concern for the poor.

They have many resources on several websites:

Click on this link for prayer ideas: <http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/globalpoverty/>

and on this one for a long list of suggestions for individuals and families:

<http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/globalpoverty/opsforaction.shtml>

ACTION OPTION 3

While shopping we can make a difference in the lives of people around the world by letting store managers know that we want those who make our clothing to earn just wages. It is as simple



as leaving a little piece of paper with the checkout person wherever we shop. Click on the link below for a success story about how the opinions of people like us helped a company become more just in their treatment of employees. There too you will read about what you, your students and families can do during this advent season. Copy the article and send it home to parents along with a sheet of “shopping cards.” If people throughout southeastern Wisconsin would do this, our action would be felt around the globe!

<http://www.archmil.org/aboutus/ShowNews.asp?ID=2672>

ACTION OPTION 4

In Milwaukee there is a new store where articles are made by people who have received a just wage for their labor. It is the Four Corners of the World shop at 5205 W North Avenue. Click here for more information: <http://www.archmil.org/resources/userfiles/FourCorners.pdf>

ACTION OPTION 5

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) offers an on-line interactive Advent Calendar. There is an idea for each day that has to do with praying, learning and/or responding to situations of poverty in this country. <http://www.usccb.org/cchd/adventcalendar/>

The Good Shepherd Voices For Justice Committee, along with the Archdiocese of Milwaukee World Mission Ministries office, offer you blessings during this season when you help make the presence of Christ felt throughout the world!