



UNCLE SCROOGE'S CHRISTMAS

**SERVES:
POOR**

**TIME:
NOV-DEC**

PRESENTING THE NEED TO MY TEAM

- In Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" Scrooge is so dedicated to his work that he wants to evict tenants on Christmas. He is totally focused on his work, losing any sense of love and charity. At the end, however, his heart is changed and with a burst of enthusiasm he becomes the most charitable man in town. The poor people in Scrooge's apartments definitely noticed the change in his demeanor.
- So many have a similar demeanor around Christmas today, with hearts of frozen coal. The poor suffer from their lack of care just like in Scrooge's day too, especially in today's tough economy. Just think of a poor mother and father who cannot even afford a good Christmas dinner for their three boys. We cannot let this happen.



- This Christmas we can help out such poverty stricken families by showing those who have the financial means what Scrooge learned: the joy is in giving and not receiving.

**BAH! HUMBUG!
TO
MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

OUR CALL TO SERVE

Let's adopt some families in need this Christmas, and help bring to them the joy of Christ! We can give those who have financial means an opportunity to be generous and experience that same joy of Christ!

PROJECT OVERVIEW

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WEEK	STEPS	WEEKLY THEME
1	<p>Find People and /or work in parish: This week you need to determine which people you will approach and how. Make sure to look for those key people that have the means to really help. You could also get your parish involved by asking the Pastor's permission to make this a parish wide project. You can help people be generous in giving.</p> <p>Pastor: Ask your Pastor if there are any families in the parish in real need. Find out all the information you can about their needs / kids ages and sizes, etc. Work through him, not directly with the families. You can also ask his permission to work with a poor parish in the diocese to adopt a family or two there as well. Plan a date with him for delivery of the care packages.</p>	
2	<p>Determine Gifts: Figure out what you will give the families for Christmas. Think of everything from toys, turkey or even gift certificates for groceries or gas.</p> <p>Start Asking: You need to start approaching businessmen and others to ask for the true spirit of Christmas.</p> <p>Promotion: Plan with the Pastor how and when you will promote this at the parish. You can create a "giving tree" by setting up a Christmas tree in the back of the Church and making ornament shapes this week out of construction paper with specific items on them that the families are in need of. People can take one after Mass and then bring the gift the following week and place it under the tree with the paper ornament taped to it.</p>	

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3	<p>Big Ask: Work yourself up to make the biggest asks this week. Approach friends of your parents and family.</p> <p>Friends: Ask your friends at school to help out either with money or goods like food or new toys.</p> <p>Parish: Ask the pastor to promote the project and the “giving tree” during the weekend Masses.</p>	
4	<p>Last donations: You need to keep asking men to have a change of heart like Scrooge did. Each boy should have at least one person in mind that they need to ask in the next week for a donation or money or a specific item that one of the families needs.</p> <p>Parish: This week have boys commit to attend certain Masses at the parish to help promote and collect items from the giving tree or donations.</p> <p>Mall: (Optional) Do a final push at a public venue such as a mall or grocery store if possible.</p>	
5	<p>Parish: Final week for collecting the giving tree gifts after the last weekend masses.</p> <p>Prepare: Begin preparing and dividing the gifts received thus far for the families.</p> <p>Donations: Take an inventory of the money donated and assign a committee to actually go out and purchase items for the families this week.</p>	

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6	<p>Give: Distribute the gifts you have collected to those who need them this week. The team can deliver the gifts to parish priest(s). Any extra can be given to the parish where the most families in need come from.</p> <p>Party: This is a perfect week to have a Conquest Christmas Party. Enjoy the Christmas season, say “Merry Christmas” to all, and speak about Jesus’ birth.</p> <p>Thank People: Send out thank you notes to everyone who personally gave money to help the poor at Christmas. They need to see that their generosity helped someone concretely.</p>	

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TACTICS BY AREAS

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LOCATION

- Ask for generosity where it seems most logical for people giving: their house, office, the club location, or elsewhere.
- If you want to make a more public appeal, make it in an influential area where these people may be.
- If possible, it is best to give gifts to the families individually at their home. If the pastor deems this inappropriate give them out at the parish hall or simply have the pastor provide them to the families.

PROVISIONS

- Presentation: You need a presentation to pull men's heartstrings and give. You can do a PowerPoint with pictures of the families you will help or show their poverty with basic items that they need. This can easily be sent via email, or shown on a laptop in person.
- Suits: If you are going to go and meet a big businessman and try and ask him to be generous, he will be impressed if you come in suits, even if you bought them at a second-hand store.
- Gifts: try to give durable gifts that will be enjoyed for a while over fads. A good soccer ball will provide fun for a long time while 3 packs of deluxe baseball cards will not be enjoyed as long.
- Thank you letters: Make them nice and professional and a list of the gifts you were able to provide to the families. You can do form letters but personalize them by family and item sponsored.

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RESPONSIBILITIES

- Treasurer: record all donations and work out what can be purchased with the money you received. You may have more or less than is needed to buy what you planned.
- Squads: Each squad should be assigned certain families and certain individuals to ask for their generosity. The team should plan together and share resources but this apostolate is done more by individual squads than the whole team.
- It would be best if each squad shows a presentation to businessmen. Each team and squad should work together to find the best way to develop these.

CONTACTS

- Men you want to become generous like Scrooge: You need to pull at their heart. Unless their heart is moved to generosity, you will not get through to them. They need to see that you are joyfully generous and that they can change people's lives. If they give, ask for names of business friends whom you can approach and mention that they gave.
- Most businessmen will at least be moved to generosity by guilt or one-up man-ship that another man gave more than they feel like giving.
- Pastor: He needs to see that you really want to help families in need and not just be boastful. The more you can involve the parish in the project, the better success you will have and he holds the keys.
- Families in need: if you work directly with them be charitable and help them feel comfortable so they will be honest and tell you their real needs (like the heating and electrical bills) and not let you be satisfied bringing only toys.
- Others: try to get them in the Christmas spirit. Keep them focused on the families you will help out and not on an abstract Christmas gift. Ask them for specific amounts that correspond to specific things (turkey, oil change for the car, etc.).

PROJECT OVERVIEW

DEBRIEFING

**SERVES:
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SPECIAL OPS

- Work together with the pastor to determine what the families need, he may even be able to get you an exact list or let you meet with them personally.
- Focus on the specific families you want to help and their needs. The more personal you make it, the more likely people will open their wallets.
- You will get more money from personal donations sought out than putting on a Santa hat and going to a mall. Prepare a presentation so you will impact this man's soul and make him generous to give to these families in need.
- The Parish "Giving Tree" is a very good way to involve the parish and allow people to be generous. (See the project GIVING TREE) People tend to experience giving in their hearts more by providing a tangible gift rather than just money.

CONTINGENCY PLAN



- Raise money to sponsor the heating bill at a poor parish or seminary in December.
- Raise money for people in mission areas. The best way to do this is to sponsor children through Catholic World Mission (www.catholicworldmission.org) which ensures their spiritual betterment as well as their physical aid.
- Combine with the Christmas campaign another Conquest team or local Church for greater effectiveness.
- Organize a party for families in need and give each family a certain amount of "Scrooge Bucks" which are used to purchase auction items like a bike, gas cards, 30 cans of soup, etc.

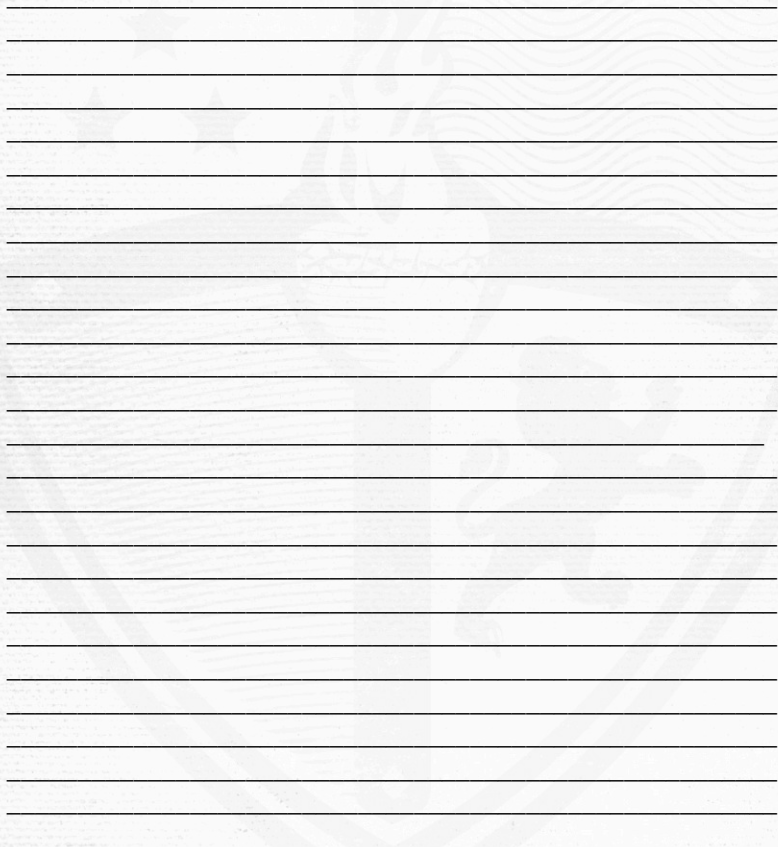
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APOSTOLIC PROJECT PLANNING

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NOTES:



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