



Love of God & Neighbor Activity

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1. Below, you will find the second part of the St. Isidore story heard in today's Adoration.

After reading the story to the children, the children can act out the story. (Characters needed: St. Isidore, birds, crowd, mill worker)

Let us remember what Jesus said was the second commandment from the first Gospel you heard today. "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Saint Isidore followed this commandment from Jesus too. Isidore showed love to his neighbors, both people and animals.

For example, one snowy day, as Isidore walked to the grinding mill, he passed a flock of pigeons scratching for food on the hard surface of the frosty ground. Now remember Isidore was very poor. So, anything he had was not extras. It was part of what he needed to live. However, knowing that the birds would not be able to find food, Isidore poured half of his sack of precious corn upon the ground for the birds. People laughed at him for sharing his food with animals instead of keeping it for himself. They thought he was crazy. However, when Isidore reached the mill, his corn bag was full again and when the corn was ground, it made twice as much flour as it should have!

Isidore did not show kindness in hopes of getting a reward. He showed kindness because it was the right thing to do. He showed kindness because Jesus asks us to love our neighbor.

2. Review with the children the following thoughts on loving your neighbor. Have each child decide on an action of love for a family member and a neighbor.

When we love our neighbor as ourselves, we treat them the way we want others to treat us.

- If we don't want people to talk ugly to us, we don't talk ugly to our neighbor.
- If we don't want people grabbing things out of our hands, we don't grab things from our neighbor's hand.
- If we want people to compliment us when we do something well, we should compliment our neighbor.
- If we want others to share with us, we should share with our neighbor.

Who is your neighbor?

- Is it just the person that lives in the house next to you?
- Or on the same street as you?
- Our neighbors are anyone who God loves.
- And who does God love? Everyone

Think about a kindness you can do at home this week. How can you show love to your family?

- Listen right away to your parents instead of arguing.
- Do a chore for a family member before they can do it.
- Smile when you really feel like pouting.
- Give a hug or kiss to your mom, dad, sister, or brother when they least expect it.
- What are some other ideas?

Now think about a kindness you can do for a neighbor outside of your family. How can you show love to your neighbor?

- Help someone clean up at school.
- You can say a quick prayer when you see a sad stranger.
- Pick up something someone drops in church.
- What are some other ideas?