DEPARTMENT of CATHOLIC EDUCATION
Office of Youth Ministry
2170 E. Victory Drive
Savannah, GA 31404
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CatholicEducationGA.org

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR
Youth Night Outline for Parish Use

Introduction / Game

Fall Scattergories

-Choose a letter. Everyone has 3 minutes to try to come up with an answer that starts with this letter for each of the following prompts. You get double points if the answer is an alliteration (example, Krispy Kreme gets 2 points). If two students put the same answer, they do not get points for their answer.

-Prompts:

Fall Food
Family Movie
Kind of Pie
Tradition
Candy
Hot Drink
Something that you are thankful for
Fall Activity
Dessert
Song
Costume

Prayer / Scripture

Read Mark 12: 28-34

Main Talk (Recording – Love Your Neighbor)
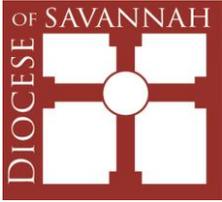
Break into small groups

Potential Questions / Prompts

-From the talk, how did your idea of "love" change?

-What do you think about the fact that it is Christ's love that brought Him to His persecution? Can you relate that to your own journey?

-What obstacles are there in general or in your own personal life to being able to authentically love your neighbor?

-Who do you feel immediately called to love right now? Was there anyone who stood out in your life (either close to you or not) that you think God wants you to love?

Come Together / Prayer / Dismissal

If possible, have time in front of either Christ in adoration or silent time in front of the tabernacle.

In accomplishing the Church's fundamental mission to build the body of Christ through the catechesis of children, the **DEPARTMENT OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION** – the *Office of Catholic Schools,* the *Office of Catechesis for Children,* and the *Office of Youth Ministry,* commits expertise, time and energy to provide systemic standards for leadership, support, and service to those who live the mission to prepare hearts, educate minds, reveal Christ and cultivate the Roman Catholic tradition.
Diocese of Savannah Catholic Education…Powering Potential!

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Theme-Related Quotes for Inspiration

Did you know that the love of God and love of Neighbor is called "charity"? (CCC 1822) CHARITY is how we love our neighbor. We give of ourselves—when we're tired, overwhelmed, don't think we have anything else to give but do.

And who exactly is our neighbor?? Think of the Good Samaritan. The "neighbor" was the stranger who allowed his heart to feel the pain of the beaten up man. And he was a Samaritan caring for a Jew – this was unheard of! We will be talking about how to act out of *true charity* for *all people*—from our closest family and friends to those who might be different than us, make us uncomfortable, or may be difficult to love.

18. "Love of neighbour is thus shown to be possible in the way proclaimed by the Bible, by Jesus. It consists in the very fact that, in God and with God, I love even the person whom I do not like or even know. This can only take place on the basis of an intimate encounter with God, an encounter which has become a communion of will, even affecting my feelings. Then I learn to look on this other person not simply with my eyes and my feelings, but from the perspective of Jesus Christ. His friend is my friend. Going beyond exterior appearances, I perceive in others an interior desire for a sign of love, of concern. This I can offer them not only through the organizations intended for such purposes, accepting it perhaps as a political necessity. Seeing with the eyes of Christ, I can give to others much more than their outward necessities; I can give them the look of love which they crave. Here we see the necessary interplay between love of God and love of neighbour which the First Letter of John speaks of with such insistence. If I have no contact whatsoever with God in my life, then I cannot see in the other anything more than the other, and I am incapable of seeing in him the image of God. But if in my life I fail completely to heed others, solely out of a desire to be "devout" and to perform my "religious duties", then my relationship with God will also grow arid. It becomes merely "proper", but loveless. Only my readiness to encounter my neighbour and to show him love makes me sensitive to God as well. Only if I serve my neighbour can my eyes be opened to what God does for me and how much he loves me. The saints—consider the example of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta—constantly renewed their capacity for love of neighbour from their encounter with the Eucharistic Lord, and conversely this encounter acquired its real- ism and depth in their service to others. Love of God and love of neighbour are thus inseparable, they form a single commandment. But both live from the love of God who has loved us first. No longer is it a question, then, of a "commandment" imposed from without and calling for the impossible, but rather of a freely-bestowed experience of love from within, a love which by its very nature must then be shared with others. Love grows through love. Love is "divine" because it comes from God and unites us to God; through this unifying process it makes us a "we" which transcends our divisions and makes us one, until in the end God is "all in all" (1 Cor 15:28)." Deus Caritas Est, 18

Faith in action is love, and love in action is service. By transforming that faith into living acts of love, we put ourselves in contact with God Himself, with Jesus our Lord.
Mother Teresa