



# The Giving Tree



Lent is a season of penance and reflection that leads us to our celebration of Easter. Let the students know that as we begin this Lenten season, they are going to put into practice two of the pillars of Lent. Almsgiving (Sacrificial Giving) and Praying. Sacrificial giving is a practice that teaches us that making sacrifices for others is part of living out our

faith, to help care for our brothers and sisters in Christ so they may live in dignity. Helping includes providing them food, shelter, jobs, and education. Praying helps us speak to God, keeping Him and those we pray for in our minds and hearts every time we pray.

Throughout this Lent, we are going to dress up a bare tree trunk with leaves representing our prayers and almsgiving to other children. Each leaf will represent a donation made by each classroom to the Missionary Childhood Association. As missionary disciples we can have a powerful impact on the lives of children living in other parts of the world. Each classroom can work together to help raise enough money to help a whole family or a student go to school. Our goal is to put as many leaves as possible on the tree to have it bloom on the weekend of Easter. As we rejoice in the triumphant resurrection of Jesus Christ we will also rejoice in having contributed to helping our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Making an extra effort to donate to the missions as a classroom can also help show what we can accomplish when we work together in community.



St. Catherine of Siena Catholic School, Reseda

Make an outline of a bare tree trunk and branches in a prominent place in the school or parish. Make cut out of leaves in different shades of green for each grade level. Each leaf can be worth \$5. Ask each classroom to exchange their sacrificial giving's for leaves to be placed on the bare tree trunk. At the end of Lent the tree should be full with leaves and ready to flourish with the coming of Easter. Add flowers of different colors for students to see it after Easter.