LESSON 20

Serving Others

Learning Objectives

In this lesson you will:

- Realize that true Christian love involves humble service to others.
- Summarize how Jesus served others and asked us to do the same.
- Discover ways we can use our talents to serve others.

Opening Prayer

O Lord, help me to follow your example of serving others. Give me the grace to always use my time, my talents, and my possessions for your greater glory and honor. Amen.

Opening Activity

Scan the QR code to access the online resources.

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Introduction

We have learned how mercy enables us to have compassion on the poor. Mercy also helps us to forgive those who hurt us. Now, we will see how mercy helps us serve others as Jesus did. Jesus "came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Mt 20:28). Following Jesus means that we put others before ourselves.

Reflection Questions

1. *How do you feel when you are served by others?*
2. *Why is it so difficult to put others before ourselves?*

Point 1
God's Servant

The word **service** means "contributing to the good of others." Jesus spent most of his adult life in service to others. He taught the uneducated and healed the sick. He comforted the sorrowful and forgave sinners. At the Last Supper, Jesus gave his apostles yet another example of service when he washed their feet. Jesus showed us that we must respond to the needs of others in humble service. Jesus' example of love will be explored in more detail in the Climbing the Mountain section (see Jn 13:3-15).

Following Jesus' example, some of us might feel called to serve as a missionary. We can also help watch our siblings. There are so many ways we can help others.

Point 2

Humility

Humility is considered the greatest virtue by many saints. It is a virtue that goes hand-in-hand with service.

The word **humility** comes from a word that means “close to the earth” or “lowly.” Humble people share their talents for the good of others. They sacrifice their own wants and needs for the **common good**, whatever is best for most people. The common good is about making choices that help everyone, not just ourselves. For instance, if you are on a playground, you can take turns so everyone gets a chance to play where they want to.

Point 3

The Humility of Jesus & Mission

Jesus is God's own son. He is divine. When he came to earth, he could have been a great king or military officer. Instead, he chose a life of humble service. Before becoming a preacher and miracle-worker, he worked as a simple carpenter. In everything he did, he put the needs of others before his own needs. Indeed, Jesus died on the cross so that sin could be forgiven and all people could be reunited with God.

Jesus even continued to serve others after his Resurrection from the dead. When some of the apostles were fishing following Jesus' Resurrection, he called to them from shore. Later, he made breakfast for them. Can you imagine Jesus serving you breakfast? Then he told them it would soon be their turn to serve others when he sent them on their missions. The word **mission** means "a certain job or duty one is sent to do."

Activity 1

Draw a Bible Story

Directions: *The Bible gives us many examples of loving service. Look up one of these, and draw the scene in the space provided.*

1. *The Good Samaritan:* **Luke 10:25-37**
2. *Jesus Heals a Girl Who Has Died:* **Matthew 9:18-26**
3. *The Early Christians Share Their Possessions:* **Acts 4:32-37**

Activity 2

Find a Role Model

Directions: *A role model is someone who we want to imitate. When we act like our role models, it helps us know how to love God and others better.*

Think of a family member or friend who is a role model because he or she serves others well. Write down five ways that that person helps you, and write down one kind thing you can do for that person this week.

Role Model: _____

Ways that person helps me:

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

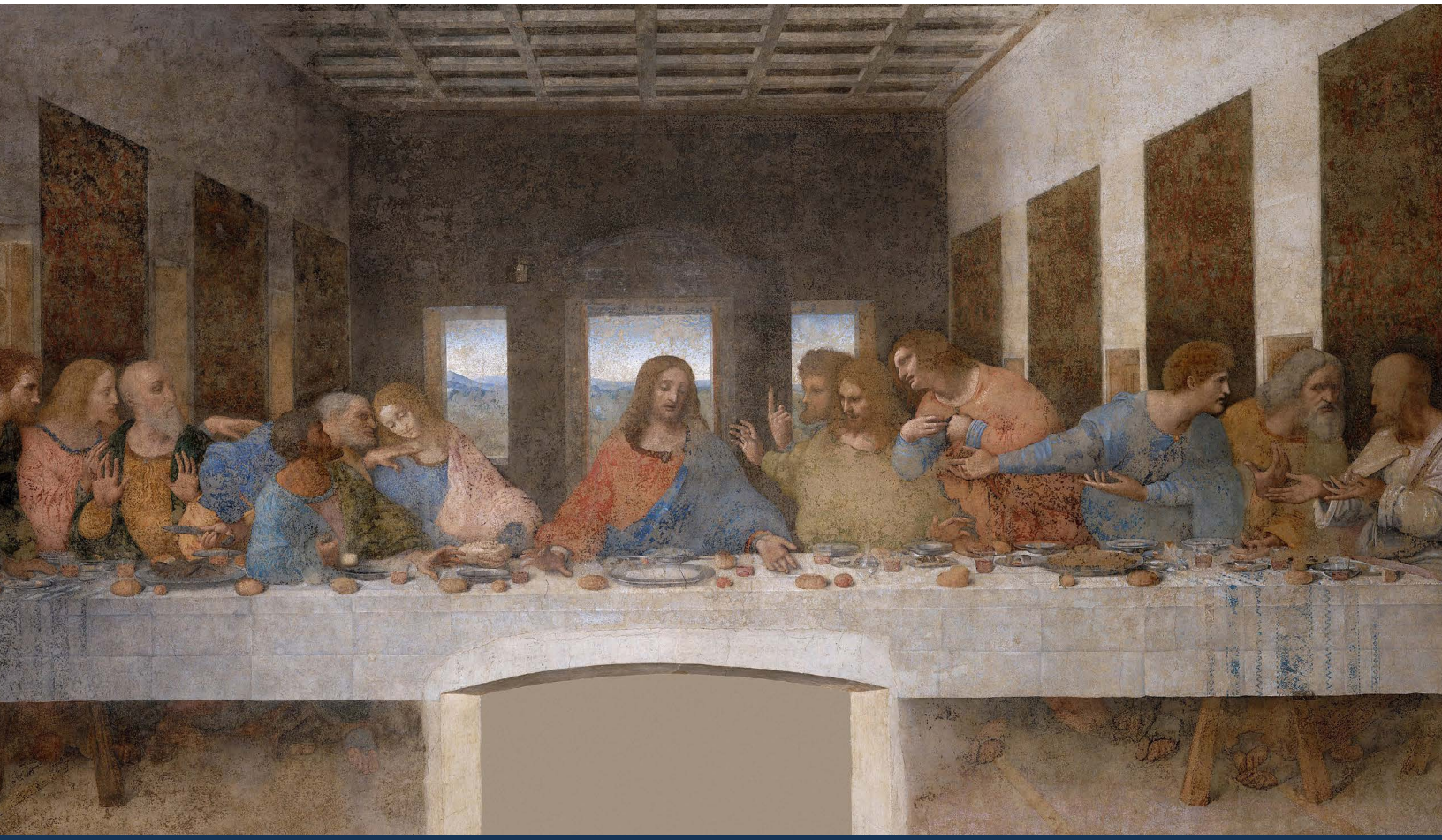
One thing I can do for that person:

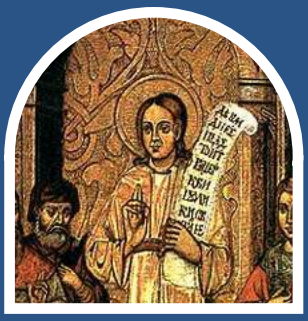
_____

Maronite Wisdom

O Christ, you are the Word of the Eternal Father, and you became man to save us. You fulfilled the laws of the old covenant to lead us to worship in spirit and in truth. You washed the feet of your apostles to teach us humility and love. You ate the passover lamb with them, so that you yourself might become our Passover and our Lamb.

— *Book of Offering: Thursday of the Mysteries*





My Role Model

Saint Romanos (Raymond) the Deacon

Many saints have given humble service to others. One of these saints is Romanos, a deacon who served the Church in the late third century. While he was young, Romanos decided to spend his life working for God. He became a deacon. Every day he helped the people of his parish. He distributed Communion at the Divine Liturgy. He made sure the poor had enough food and clothing. When people got sick, he spent time nursing them back to health. During this time, the government persecuted anyone who followed Jesus. Many Christians were thrown into prison. Romanos bravely went to visit them, bringing them Holy Communion. He encouraged the Christians to remain faithful to Jesus. Soon, he himself was arrested and sentenced to die. The soldiers tried to burn him to death, but a sudden downpour of rain put out the fire. Frightened, the soldiers released him. Romanos continued to serve the Church as a deacon. He kept visiting the Christian prisoners. Romanos was arrested again. This time, the soldiers did kill him. Today, the Church honors Romanos as a saint. We pray that we may follow his example of humble service. We celebrate his feast day on November 18.

Saint Romanos, pray for us.

Recall

Match the words in Column A with the correct descriptions in Column B.

A

____ **1.** Common good

____ **2.** Humility

____ **3.** Jesus

____ **4.** Mission

____ **6.** Romanos

____ **7.** Service

____ **8.** Thursday of the Mysteries

B

A. Day our Maronite priest washes the feet of twelve people

B. Deacon who served Christians in prison

C. A certain job or duty one is sent to do

D. What is best for most people in a community

E. Contributing to the welfare of others

F. Virtue meaning “close to the earth or lowly”

G. Made breakfast for the apostles

Weekly Journal

How have you practiced the virtue of humility this past week?

Write: One way you have served others this past week and one way you can serve others this coming week.

Concluding Prayer

O Lord Jesus Christ, help us follow the example of your humility. May we put on humility, gladness, and true love. May we serve each other with the holiness worthy of true disciples. Amen.

Climbing the Mountain

Bonus Materials for Students & Teachers

Jn 13:3–15
Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet

Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you."

Reflection

Jesus left his apostles one of the greatest examples of service and humility by washing their feet. After all, washing the feet of dinner guests was the job of a servant. The God of the Universe stoops low to wash the feet of his creatures, when it should have been the opposite. The apostles should have washed his feet. And yet, Jesus tells the apostles to follow his example.

Saintly Quote

"Humility is the only virtue that no devil can imitate. If pride made demons out of angels, there is no doubt, that humility could make angels out of demons."
— *Saint John Climacus*

Questions

1. How would you feel if Jesus offered to wash your feet?

2. How can you grow in the virtue of humility?

Reaching the Summit

For Teachers & Parents

"'Participation' is the voluntary and generous engagement of a person in a social interchange. It is necessary that all participate, each according to his position and role, in promoting the common good. The obligation is inherent in the dignity of the human person." — CCC 1913

Feed My Sheep

"When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my lambs.' A second time he said to him, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Tend my sheep.' He said to him the third time, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, 'Do you love me?' And he said to him, 'Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep.'" — *Jn 21:15-17*

By these words, Jesus was explaining that love of God is connected to humble service of others. When we feed, tend, and take care of others, we are also serving God.

Catholic Social Teaching

Rights and Responsibilities: The Common Good

"The demands of the common good are dependent on the social conditions of each historical period and are strictly connected to respect for and the integral promotion of the person and his fundamental rights. These demands concern above all the commitment to peace, the organization of the State's powers, a sound juridical system, the protection of the environment, and the provision of essential services to all, some of which are at the same time human rights: food, housing, work, education and access to culture, transportation, basic health care, the freedom of communication and expression, and the protection of religious freedom. Nor must one forget the contribution that every nation is required in duty to make towards a true worldwide cooperation for the common good of the whole of humanity and for future generations also" (*CSDC* 166). In other words, the common good should always try to help people be the best they can be.

"The common good therefore involves all members of society, no one is exempt from cooperating, according to each one's possibilities, in attaining it and developing it." — *CSDC 167*

Discussion Questions

1. Why is the common good so important?

2. How can you teach your children about the common good?

Words to Know

Q. What is the **common good**?

A. What is best for the most people in the community. Humble people sacrifice their own wants and needs for the common good.

Q. What is **humility**?

A. A virtue that means "close to the earth" or "lowly." Humble people generously share their talents for the good of others. They do not consider themselves "better" than others.

Q. What is **mission**?

A. A special purpose or job that someone is sent to do. The mission of the Twelve Apostles was to tell people the Good News about Jesus' death and Resurrection. Our Maronite Church continues this same mission today.

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