



## A SPECIAL GIFT FOR JESUS

Some parishes begin to prepare children for the celebration of First Eucharist during the Easter Season. At Saint Edmund of Canterbury Church, the parish religious program follows Jesus' teaching:

*"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."*

Matthew 25:40

So for First Eucharist preparation, the parish incorporates this teaching of Jesus through a game using the Corporal Works of Mercy. This game helps the children come up with ideas on how they can be more like Jesus.

This influenced one family from the parish. Instead of just buying their daughter a beautiful new outfit for the celebration of First Eucharist, they wanted to gift an outfit to another girl, whose family couldn't afford one. The family asked the parish to help them find such a girl somewhere in the city. So arrangements were made to outfit another little girl. The girl and her family went shopping and had a great time. They bought two new white dresses, two sets of accessories, and two new pairs of shoes. And before either girl celebrated her First Eucharist, the families met. The family from Saint Edmund humbly offered their gift, and the other family graciously received it. In one another they saw Jesus! The struggling family was clothed with such generosity. And the giving family was blessed by such graciousness.

Since then, Saint Edmund of Canterbury Church incorporates this gift project into their celebrations of First Communion. Each year parents are invited to donate their barely used outfits for the Sacraments so that they can help struggling families in the community.

## IDEAS FOR YOUR FAMILY TIME

- The Corporal Works of Mercy are a beautiful lesson that, with a little bit of help, even young children can understand. Not only can they understand it, but also, they will naturally want to try to help others. Discuss how your family can live out the Works of Mercy. You can find them listed in the *Be My Disciples* books on page 261 in the Levels 2 to 6 workbooks (and check the index for more options like page 51 in Level 2 or page 39 in Level 4)
- After the celebration of your child's First Sacraments, consider donating their clothing to another family.
- The next time you buy a gift for someone celebrating one of the Sacraments, consider choosing a gift that will also be a gift for Jesus.