

Secondary School Mercy Day Nonviolence Project



SHARED BY COLEGIO SANTA ETHNEA



Mercy Education
System of the Americas

Educación de la Misericordia
de las Américas

MERCY DAY 2018: “IF YOU WANT PEACE, DEFEND LIFE”

Project Summary: Accompanied by faculty members, students visit local families to talk about peace, share a blessing and leave a gift of holy water. Each family is also invited to come to the school later for a student performance. The full project is described in this letter to faculty from Ali Botto, coordinator of catechesis, and can be adapted to meet the needs and locality of your school.

Dear teachers: As you already anticipated from an early mailing from the administration, this year in conjunction with the reflection from the Chapter of the Sisters of Mercy, our theme will be NONVIOLENCE.

Using this as a framework, each class has been assigned a special theme that the students will address using different subject and from already learned catechesis. We understand NONVIOLENCE, as a path to the building of PEACE, conscious that peace is not the absence of conflict but rather an interior disposition... It is not an outward peace nor an outward violence; each one is in the heart of the person and as Jesus said, “from the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks,” or what is the same thing, what is in our soul, also reflects in our actions.

As always, we are all invited that day, besides to participate in the Mass and luncheon like we do, but to accept the invitation to go out and share our day visiting the home of the community B° de Obligado [a local neighborhood near the school].

Who can go?

All teachers who want to. Please keep the administration notified so we can be aware of the groups as we prepare.

What will we do in the neighborhoods?

We will divide up into groups with students of different course levels and will visit homes in the specific area.

What do say and do when we visit the homes?

1. Before anything else, as always, we will introduce ourselves, say that we are from Santa Ethnea and that we are working together with the Redemptorist Fathers.
2. We will say in each home that we are visiting because it is a school feast and we want to share it with them; because always in our workshops, school support, computer training, etc., this neighborhood is a part of the life of our school in its pastoral activities.

3. Then we will share with them that this year we are sharing with the neighbors our desire and our reflections on WORKING FOR PEACE AND REJECTING ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE.

Perhaps that will be a good time to say that all of us at times need to become more peaceful, to ask how things are going in the neighborhood with regard to this theme, to nourish ourselves in the knowledge that although it might seem small, each one can work for peace with their children and their neighbors, not rush away quickly, listen before acting, and so on.

We will leave with each family a small container of holy water, with a saying about peace printed on it (that will be made at the conclusion of each course level) and a prayer of peace that includes prayers from different religious traditions as a means to respect differences and seek unity.

In each home that opens its door to us or speaks with us and wherein we find people, we will invite them to come to the courtyard outside the chapel and the garden at 11:30 a.m. to watch a musical comedy, TWISTED RIGHTS (it is short but addresses the dignity and the rights of all to live in harmony and equality).

ATTENTION: WE WILL VISIT THE HOMES IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD FROM ABOUT 10:30-11:30. At 11:30 everyone who is doing this service will walk to the courtyard and after the presentation, return to the school where we will have dismissal.

WE BELIEVE THAT THIS YEAR THE IMPORTANT THING IS TO LEAVE THE MESSAGE THAT THERE WILL BE PEACE IF EVERYONE CULTIVATES IT IN THEIR DAILY SURROUNDINGS AND GIFTS IT TO OTHERS.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, ASK OUR PASTORAL OR CATECHETICAL TEAM. DO NOT HAVE ANY FEAR ABOUT VISITING OR APPROACHING THE PEOPLE; IN GENERAL THEY WANT TO BE VISITED, AND, BESIDES, THE CHILDREN DO IT SO WELL!!!

Ali Botto
Coordinator of Catechesis