

## **Faith in Action Project**

Horton Hears a Who! is actually a parable about justice. When you were young, you could only relate to the fun aspects of the story. Now that you are older, you can understand the deeper meaning of the story and the seriousness of the situation that prompted it.

After the Second World War, Theodor Geisel (Dr. Seuss) went to Japan as a correspondent for Life magazine. While he was there, he developed a great respect for the Japanese people and their culture. His attitude toward the Japanese, however, was at odds with the attitudes prevalent in the United States at that time. Horton Hears a Who! is Theodor Geisel's statement about those attitudes. In the book the Whos in Whoville are like the Japanese immediately after the war, small insignificant, and powerless in a hostile world. Horton spends most of the book trying to protect the Whos and to convince the other animals that "a person is a person no matter how small." Theodor Geisel saw a situation that he believed was unjust and used his particular gifts and the benefits of his situation as a writer to do something about it.

The intention of this project is to serve those in need. The following steps are necessary to learn and act on what we are called by God through our Baptism. Please complete the project in the following in order:

1. ***Read, study and complete the Faith in Action handouts with your candidate.***
  - a. **What is Justice?** pgs 3-4  
What is Justice Handout Reflection Questions
    - What passage did you find the most meaningful? Why?
    - What quotation within the passage did you find the most challenging? Why?
  - b. **King Solomon and the Otter** pg 5
    - i. Discuss the differences between Rights and Responsibilities pg 6
  - c. **My Action Plan** pg 7
    - i. Review Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy pg 8 and then fill out the action plan

## 2. **Choose and make arrangements for Faith in Action Service Project.**

Here is a list of possible “Faith in Action” ministries to contact. Feel free to create an idea of your own. Pray about what to do and ask God to lead you to where he wants you to go to take care of His people.

- Degage’ Ministries            454-1661  
[www.degageministries.org](http://www.degageministries.org)
  
- Mel Trotter Ministries        454-8249  
[www.meltrotter.org](http://www.meltrotter.org)
  
- Kids Food Basket            235-4532  
[www.kidsfoodbasket.org](http://www.kidsfoodbasket.org)
  
- God’s Kitchen                454-4110  
[www.ccwestmi.org](http://www.ccwestmi.org) Visit the Catholic Charities of West Michigan website to learn more about this ministry
  
  
- Franciscan Life Process Center 897-7842

## 3. **Complete the act of service together.**

*\*There are no specific number hours that are needed to complete this project.*

The key in the volunteer project is to help someone...to look beyond yourself for the sake of another.





# King Solomon & the Otter

~ A HEBREW FOLKTALE ~

**It is said** that King Solomon was so wise he could speak and understand the languages of all the animals. To set an example for people, he decreed there should be peace among the beasts.

Peace Among the Beasts!  
Peace Among the Beasts!  
King Solomon Decreed  
Peace Among the Beasts!

"Death! Death! Death to the slayer! Death to the slayer," the otter cried. "It's the fault of the weasel my children died. I came out of the water with their food (I brought them these little crabs . . . oh they loved little crabs . . .) and found that Weasel had trampled my children dead on the ground! He broke the vow of Peace, agreed among the beasts. Peace is dead and death instead reigns without cease! I want Justice."

When the animals heard what the weasel had done to the otter's children, their outcry was immediate. "Bring the weasel to the King!" cried the other animals.

"Oh, King," said the weasel, "what the otter says is true.  
But my heart contains no malice when I do the things I do.  
I heard the woodpecker drum a call to arms.  
I never meant to do the otter any harm.  
The drums . . . they thrilled me to the core  
and I trampled her children as I marched to War."

"Then bring the woodpecker before me," said the King.

"Oh, King," said the woodpecker, "be not alarmed! I drummed the drums but I meant no harm. I saw the scorpion sharpen her sting. It frightened me so that I let the drums ring."

"Then bring the scorpion before me," said the King.

Into the throne room came Scorpion holding her poison sting high above her head and she said, "King, I made no offense. I sharpened my sting in my own defense. I saw the turtle climbing into her armor. I did the same, but I meant not to harm her."

"Oh, King," said the turtle, "my armor is strong. I climbed in for safety but I meant no wrong. I saw the crab with angry claws. She was charging across the ocean floors!"

Into the throne room came Crab  
With tears in her eyes and claws outstretched she said,

"Yes, I confess. Yes, I confess. It's true what she saw. With angry claws I *did* charge to war. But I saw the otter dive into my home and eat my children I'd left there alone."

"Well," said King Solomon turning once again to the otter, "Otter, you're the one who cries 'Justice be done' when Otter, you're to blame!"

"One who sows the seeds of death shall reap the same."

Peace Among the Beasts!

(Heather Forest, as printed in Brody and others, ed., *Spinning Tales, Weaving Hope*, pages 171-172)



# *The* **Rights and Responsibilities** *of the* **Human Person**

## **RIGHTS**

- Right to freedom of conscience
- Right to religious liberty
- Right to raise a family
- Right to immigrate
- Right to live free from unfair discrimination
- Right to have a share of earthly goods sufficient for oneself and our family
- Right to life and to those things that make life truly human: food, clothing, housing, health care, education, security, social services, and employment

## **RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Responsibility to one another
- Responsibility to our families
- Responsibility to the larger society
- Responsibility to respect the rights of others
- Responsibility to work for the common good

(Based on United States Catholic Conference, *A Century of Social Teaching*)

# My Action Plan

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We need to walk with both feet of Christian service if we really want to make a difference in the world. Works of mercy without works of justice will address people's suffering but not

necessarily the root cause of their suffering. Works of justice address the root cause of suffering but not necessarily people's immediate needs.

One work of mercy that **I** will do in this coming week:

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One work of justice that **I** will do in this coming week:

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## **Spiritual Works of Mercy**

Instructing

Advising

Consoling

Comforting

Forgiving

Bearing Wrongs Patiently

## **Corporal Works of Mercy**

Giving Alms (Donations) to the Poor

Feeding the Hungry

Sheltering the Homeless

Clothing the Naked

Visiting the Sick and Imprisoned

Burying the Dead