Global Solidarity Advent Calendar

Activity Goal: To be reminded daily during Advent that we are one family and that we are united despite borders and social classes. We strive to be in global solidarity with people in all parts of the world, especially those who are victims of injustice.

(This calendar can be used with the Education for Justice Advent Readings and Reflections - 2003, http://www.coc.org/ej/justice/topics.html?ID=9077.)

Materials Needed:
- Picture of the Madonna and Child (see the next page for two example images)
- Twenty-five pictures of women, men and children representing all continents and all races around the globe. Web sites such as the International Labor Organization Photo Gallery (http://www.ilo.org/dyn/media/mediasearch?p_lang=en) and magazines such as National Geographic and Maryknol are all sources for these images.
- 1 large poster board
- 5-6 pieces of construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue or tape
- 1 marker

Activity Description: Construct an Advent Calendar of Global Solidarity using a large poster board.

A. Adhere an image of the Madonna and Child from the next page (or an equivalent picture) in the center of the poster board.

B. Option One
   a. Find twenty-five different pictures of women, men and children from around the world. These pictures should be as ethnically and culturally diverse as possible, from many different parts of the world.
   b. Glue these pictures around the Madonna and Child.
   c. Use the construction paper to create square or rectangle “doors”.
   d. One edge of each door can be adhered to the construction paper so that all the pictures are covered.
   e. Use the marker to write the days of Advent on the doors (Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 – 24).

B. Option Two
   a. From a piece of construction paper or cardboard, cut out a square, about 4 inches by 4 inches.
   b. Use the square to trace 25 squares in the area around the large picture of the Madonna and Child.
   c. Write the dates of the days of Advent inside the squares (Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 - 24).
   d. Each day, paste a picture of a person from another part of the world in the corresponding square.

C. After opening the door (A) or adding the picture (B), use the Advent verses and reflections provided in the Education for Justice Advent Readings and Reflections, and/or use the following prayer Center:

O God,
Open our eyes that we may see the needs of others;
Open our ears that we may hear their cries;
Open our hearts that we may feel their anguish and their joy.
Let us not be afraid to defend the oppressed, the poor, the powerless.
Show us where love and hope and faith are needed,
and use us to bring them to those places.
Open our ears and eyes, our hearts and lives,
That we may in these coming days be able to prepare our hearts
to do the work of justice and peace for you.
Amen.
(Adapted from the Sabeel Center)
Madonna and Child