

Taking Faith Home

“Care for the Poor”

For the Week of:

September 22nd – 28th



information on Vibrant Faith Ministries, you can visit their website at www.vibrantfaithathome.org.)

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Scripture Passages for the Week:

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15 “put them in an earthenware jar...”
Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16 “My refuge and my fortress, my God”
Matthew 25:34-45 “just as you did to one of the least of these...”

A prayer for the week:

Gracious God, we are surrounded each day by your blessings, and for this we offer our thanks. We know that there are those in our community and world who are poor, yet we often overlook them. Encourage our eyes to see those in need, and our hearts to reach out in love. Amen.

A Mealtime Prayer:

We thank you God for the bounty of this meal, and we thank you that we can share this bounty with others. Remind us that not all your people have the food they need. We ask that you bless them (through our efforts) to ensure they too are fed. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you know the true blessedness that surrounds your life, and may you be moved to share those blessings. Amen.

(This resource is adapted by the staff of Manhattan Beach Community Church from the “Taking Faith Home” resource of Vibrant Faith Ministries. For more

Caring Conversations:

Far too often we see people according to their condition. Discuss in your household or small group:

- We hear people speak of “the poor,” but how would it change your perspective to talk about “people who are poor”?
- Beyond charity, and even feeding programs, what more can/should we do in order to care for those who are poor?

Devotions:

We pass them at corners and on freeway offramps. We see them on the sidewalks and in encampments. And there are many, many more who we do not see. Pray this week for those in our community and world who are without a home. May we help find shelter for all.

Service:

This coming Sunday, September 29th, we will receive a gift of service from our amazing youth as we observe Youth Sunday. The entire service will be planned by and officiated by the youth or our church. It truly is an incredible gift, and one that brings with it a refreshed perspective on our common faith.

Rituals and Traditions:

One of the (relatively) newer traditions in our Sunday worship services in the “Passing of the Peace.” It is a time, as the minister reminds us, to symbolically reconcile with our fellow human beings. It also represents an opportunity to be eye-to-eye with others and

offer a blessing of peace...something that serves us all. As you speak the words and share the moment with those around you, consider the great blessing you are bestowing and receiving.