

Chapter 17 **Servant**

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart. *Matthew 11:29a*

To the Parents:

In chapter 17, your child learned the following:

- Jesus served others and calls his followers to serve.
- Jesus is present in those who serve and in those who are served.

For Christians, serving one another is symbolized in the act of washing another's feet, as Jesus did. The clearest sign of commitment to Jesus that Christians can bring to the world involves caring for one another with love. Jesus provides the model of loving service in all that he did—caring for the sick, comforting the bereaved, feeding the hungry, teaching the multitudes, and even giving his life for the life of the world.

Those who serve others can sometimes do so without much joy, seeming to begrudge the great effort that it takes to meet another's needs. Followers of Jesus serve with joy and love, as he did. This requires a strong conviction that the call to service is a call from God to put aside one's own wants in order to provide what is needed. This does not mean working to the point of physical or mental exhaustion; that would be counterproductive. It does mean putting on the attitude of Christ, serving with joy because of love for one another.

With Your Child:

1. Talk about the regular services you provide for members in your family and for neighbors. Talk about whether you do so joyfully or begrudgingly.
2. Recall recent times when someone has done a good service for you or your loved ones, and reflect on what made that service memorable. For example, was it the person's attitude, actions, sacrifice?
3. Say a prayer of thanksgiving for people performing services in your life, and make an effort to be a server as well.
4. Together read the story of Saint Camillus de Lellis on the Review and Explore page.