

## CHARITY / SELFLESSNESS

### Defined:

#### Charity:

Dictionary: 1. the love of God for man or of man for his fellow men 2. an act of goodwill...4. kindness in judging others...

EYFL Definition: Loving one's family, friends, neighbors and other fellow men; Feeling a personal responsibility to help any one who needs help; Accepting the love and help of those who are trying to be charitable to us.

#### Selflessness:

Dictionary: devoted to others' welfare or interests and not one's own; unselfish...

Eyres: Becoming more extra-centered and less self-centered. Learning to feel with and for others. Empathy, tolerance, brotherhood. Sensitivity to needs in people and situations.

**Examples:** Our world is full of many selfless and charitable people. Unfortunately, today's newspapers, radio stations and television stations choose to make heroes only out of those who are good at sports, who have a lot of money, who are movie stars or rock stars, or who choose to be unusual. The real heroes of this world are those who care about their fellow man and devote much of their lives to helping others. These are the heroes who will receive the greatest reward when their lives have ended.

Possibly the best living example of charity and selflessness is Mother Theresa of Calcutta. Calcutta is a city in India where over 3 million (3,000,000) people live. Many of those people are so poor that they have no food to eat, no place to sleep and no medicine to cure them of their illnesses. Having no concern for her own safety and well-being, Mother Theresa goes into the streets of Calcutta and does whatever she can to support these people. As a result, she too lives a very poor and simple life. Many people in America also devote their lives to helping others. Some try to help the homeless, the

poor, the mentally handicapped, the physically challenged and many others. These are the people we should try hardest to be like.

**Quotes To Remember:**

1. G. K. Chesterton: "Love of one's neighbor is the only door out of the dungeon of self."
2. Ralph W. Emerson: "See how the masses of men worry themselves into nameless graves while here and there, a great unselfish soul forgets himself into immortality."

**Types of Charity and Selflessness:**

1. Be kind to those who others mistreat.
2. Attempt to do one special thing for someone else every day.
3. Practice selflessness by:
  - a. Not always being concerned about being first in line.
  - b. Not always being concerned about getting the biggest or best.
  - c. Attempting to help out at home as often as possible.
  - d. Listening carefully when someone is talking to you and trying to understand **why** someone feels the way they do, rather than judging that person.
  - e. Sharing.