



## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is the “I Hunger for Mercy” Program?**

The “I Hunger for Mercy” Program is an educational, spiritual, and advocacy event to help raise awareness of the depth of poverty in our community and abroad. Getting teens involved, and letting them experience “poverty and hunger” for 24 hours, will help them better understand the social issue going on around them. It will also help them grow in compassion and responsibility towards helping their fellow neighbors. The program consists of 24 hours of fasting, during which teens participate in activities that highlight the suffering and trials in the daily lives of the poor.

### **How does my child get involved?**

Each teen will be asked to complete a registration form as well as have a parental permission slip signed for the event. Once signed up, teens are encouraged to get sponsors for the evening in order to help raise critically needed funds to continue our programs. The goal for each student is to raise \$30 from 12 people or \$360 (the equivalent of sponsoring a child for a year). Awards will be given to kids who raise the most money and special recognition will be given to them at the event.

On the day of the event, your teen will arrive ready to spend an evening in mercy and action for poor children all over the world. Using team-building events, prayer power, advocacy activities and games, your teen will learn first hand about poverty, economics, friendship, and compassion.

### **Where does the money go?**

Money raised goes to directly help in the Missionaries of Our Lady of Divine Mercy programs.

- ❖ Passport to Hope International - a sponsorship program, where local children and children abroad receive new shoes, school supplies, food and clothing
- ❖ Operation Mercy - helping the poor with emergency financial assistance and emergency medical assistance
- ❖ House of Mercy - clothing and food distribution to the poor. Each child will have the opportunity to raise awareness of poverty in their own community while directly providing emergency aid to those in need through their sponsorship efforts.

### **What if my child cannot fast for 24 hours?**

Teens are encouraged to fast from 12:00 noon the day of the event until 12:00 noon the following day. Water, juice, and Gatorade will be available, and a modified fast may be done if the teen is unable to fast for prolonged periods of time.

### **How old does my child need to be to participate?**

The “I Hunger for Mercy” Program is targeted for teenagers from 13 to 18 years of age. Activities are geared for the individual age groups. Please note there will be adult leaders at each “I Hunger for Mercy” site.

### **What does my child need to bring to the event?**

The leaders at each “I Hunger for Mercy” site will determine what each child will need to bring to the event and hand out a list of items if necessary. Your child should have already turned in his signed Parent Consent form, pledges, and donations prior to the evening’s event. If not, he should bring any donations and give it directly to the event leader in charge. All money and items collected for the event will be turned into event leader. This includes food, clothes, fabric, or rosary making donations each child has collected before the event. There could be a chance of rain; therefore, your child may want a rain jacket or wind breaker. Your child may want to bring a journal to write about his or her experience during the event.

Your child should wear clothing that is seasonally appropriate and bring a sleeping bag and pillow to the event. Toiletry items are also required. **Please do not have your child bring anything of great value or any electronic devices such as video games, ipods, phones, etc. This evening is focused on detachment from material things and advocating for the poor.**

### **What if my child has medical issues?**

You must inform the leaders of the “I Hunger for Mercy” event of any potential medical issues or any medications your child is on before the event. On the Parent Consent form, all possible medical issues should be identified. Parents are required to bring serious medical issues to the event leader’s attention before the event, in order to determine if their child is able to participate. If there is a medical condition that would prevent your child from fasting for 24 hours, please let the youth leader know in advance of the event. Then the leader and you will determine if it is best if your child participates in the event.

**NOTE:** If your child is on medication, please ensure it is taken prior to the event and then resume at home the following morning once the event is over. If they have medications that are PRN (like inhalers), the parent and the leader must decide what is the best way to handle that medication. Please ensure that this critical step is worked out before the event begins.

### **Does the child have to spend the night to be able to participate?**

No. Although the overnight program is encouraged for kids to benefit from the teambuilding and advocacy programs, it is not necessary to spend the night. If a child wants to collect items before the event for the homeless, or collect money to be included in the grand total of money collected, any child may do so.

**Can I volunteer to chaperone?**

Absolutely. We encourage parents to participate, even if you can only help for a few hours. Please contact your event leader for more information.

**Who will be in charge of the evening?**

Each "I Hunger for Mercy" event has at least one event leader responsible for the event, collecting items (donation forms, permission slips, and medical inform), money collected by each child, and any materials needed for the event. Contact your site to learn your leader's name and telephone number.

**We encourage all families to participate in Mass the following morning.**