

~~The Price is Right~~ The Price We Pay

By Jane Angha



The Purpose

This session prepares youth to participate in the National Souper Bowl of Caring program on Super Bowl Sunday through prayer, activities, and planning for February 4, 2007.

Objective

To raise awareness of the problem of hunger in our communities, to engage youth in finding ways to educate their parish community and to ultimately collect money and canned goods for the agencies in their communities that serve the hungry.

Session Outline

7:00 p.m.	Welcome and Introductions
7:05 p.m.	Game Show – “The Price We Pay”
7:25 p.m.	Presentation on Hunger
7:40 p.m.	Small group assignments for Souper Bowl of Caring
7:55 p.m.	Large Group sharing
8:10 p.m.	Closing Prayer
8:20 p.m.	Announcements and Refreshments
8:30 p.m.	Good Night!

Materials Needed

- Nametags for participants (like those used on “The Price is Right” game show)
- Poster board
- Markers
- Masking tape
- Game show items:
 - Applause sign (on poster board)
 - Meal price sign (on poster board)
 - Working microphones – one for the game show host and one for the announcer
 - A chicken dinner for a family (chicken, mashed potatoes, carrots, dessert) – see description on **Resource 2, Announcer Script**
 - Five envelopes, one for each contestant, with play money inside
 - **Resource 1, Contestant Identities**, cut apart and give to each contestant
 - **Resource 2, Announcer Script**

- **Resource 3, Host Script**
- **Resource 4, Directions for Contestants**
- Fine-tip permanent markers
- Telephone book
- Phone
- Computer and Internet access (if possible) – see step 5 in Prepare in Advance
- Souper Bowl of Caring information for each small group (see step 1 in Prepare in Advance)
- **Resource 7, Price We Pay Nametag Master**, make one nametag for each contestant
- **Resource 5, Presentation on Hunger**
- **Resource 6, Small Group Instructions**, cut apart

Prepare in Advance

1. Before beginning any of the following things...check out the Souper Bowl of Caring website (www.souperbowl.org) to find out what this incredible movement is all about! Download information about Souper Bowl of Caring that will help the planning groups do their tasks during the session. Make a copy for each small group.

2. Invite youth and adults to help you out with the game show portion of the evening. You will need:

- Game Show Host – Invite a parish (or school) social justice leader, the DRE, yourself, or another ministry leader. This person should be comfortable playing the host role in front of a group. This person will also give a brief presentation on hunger (see **Resource 5, Presentation on Hunger**).
- Host Helper – This may be an adult or youth.
- Announcer – This may be an adult or youth. Select someone who has a great announcer voice!
- Invite five youth to be contestants in the game show.

These players will need to meet in advance of the session to practice and gather some props. At the practice, the participants should receive their identity and role description and do some acting to play their part.

3. Prepare five envelopes for the game show contestants. Use play money. Only one envelope (Michael McManus') will have enough money to purchase the meal.

4. Set up the meeting area to resemble (as best as possible) a game show. You'll need staging area with a table and the food items (chicken dinner) on the table.

Have the price sign on the table, face down. Post signs that say “The Price We Pay.” Set up a podium and microphone for the game show host. Mark an area where the contestants will stand. The announcer will also need a place to stand (and may need to share the microphone with the host).

5. If possible, the ‘Get the Facts’ planning group needs a phone, a computer, and access to the Internet for their work. See the description of their tasks on **Resource 6, Small Group Instructions.**

Session Outline

Welcome and Introductions (5 minutes)

As the youth arrive, welcome them and have them make a nametag and find a place to sit. Give a brief overview of tonight’s session:

Welcome and thanks for coming to tonight's session. We're happy to have you here. We have an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of those who go without food in our community. Tonight, we're going to look at the topic of hunger and how we can make a difference by participating in the Souper Bowl of Caring program on Super Bowl Sunday. Let's get started!

Game Show—The Price We Pay (20 minutes)

The game show is played like “The Price is Right.” The host and helper will be on the stage waiting for the contestants to be called down by the announcer. The host explains the “newest game” on TV.

The contestants will receive an envelope with money in it. They will not know the amount, but will be asked to bid on the meal the host is showing. Each person is called “down” to the stage individually. At this time, the host asks them to tell the audience about themselves. Here they will reveal their lives...single mother, immigrant, elderly, wealthy, homeless. The audience will learn a little about their lives. Then they will bid on the meals. Once they all have bid what they think the meal is worth...they will open their envelopes one by one, say how much they have and if they had enough to buy the meal. The one who had enough to purchase the meal will follow the helpers back stage...they will all become part of the audience again.

Presentation on Hunger (10 minutes)

Once everyone is seated again, the game show host talks about hunger using the points on **Resource 4, Presentation on Hunger.**

Souper Bowl of Caring (35 minutes)

Introduce the Souper Bowl of Caring program in these words:

Tonight is all about how we as a group can do something to raise awareness of hunger and help the hungry in our community. We want to team up with thousands of youth across the country in the Souper Bowl of Caring program. It is an incredible movement started by a church to help the hungry in their town. The youth decided to collect a can of food and one dollar from everyone who came to church on Super Bowl Sunday. They brought what they collected to a local food pantry and the movement was begun! Youth groups and churches saw how easy it is to give up just a dollar or a can of food and if everyone did it...we could really make a difference in eliminating the problem of hunger in our towns.

This year we are going to be part of the Souper Bowl of Caring too. But we have some work to do tonight to get ready for it!

We are going to get into small groups to work on different areas needed to make Souper Bowl Sunday a success! We need between 8-10 people in each group, so please find an area you might be interested in and join that group. Instructions are at your tables.

1. **Advertising 1** - flyers, handouts, bulletin announcements,
2. **Advertising 2** - posters/art/drama
3. **Get the Facts** - research what is being done in your community about hunger determining who will receive the money and food
4. **Super Sunday**- deciding who will be at each mass to be at the Souper Bowl stand and how this will be set up
5. **After the Fact** - Food delivery and reporting to parish and ,youth celebration planning

Give the groups 30 minutes to work on their tasks. The adults should go around to each area to help out with ideas, keeping things moving, or just helping out with a project. When the time is up, gather the groups together to share what they have come up with.

It is so amazing what has been accomplished in just a half an hour! We have a focus for our Souper Bowl of Caring, posters, and ways to get the word out as well as information we need to give to people and even a plan on how to run things smoothly on Super Bowl Sunday. We also have a great way to celebrate our accomplishments. Let's hear from each group!

Call groups up one at a time to share what they accomplished. Once the groups have all shared, plan to put posters up, distribute flyers at Masses *before* Super Bowl Sunday, which is February 4, 2007, and set a date for the celebration. Each group should be acknowledged and made to feel very proud of the work they did...a round of applause for sure!

What a great night we have had. We started out just thinking it was going to be things as usual...but instead we have made a plan to fight hunger in our community...we have some great ideas underway to let our whole parish know that hunger exists in our town and we are going to do our best to help out on Super Bowl Sunday! It is amazing what we can do when we work together and have a common goal. Thank you for everything tonight! You were incredible!

It's good then, that as a community of friends and believers, we pray and thank God for our evening.

Closing Prayer (10 minutes)

Gather

Prayer Leader: (begin with the Sign of the Cross)

Lord, you have shown us tonight that there are people who go without food too often. There are children, elderly, struggling families, and immigrant people who worry about food everyday and often don't remember what it feels like to be full. Help us to open our eyes to their need. We ask this in your name. Amen.

Listen & Respond

Reader 1 proclaims Isaiah 58:6-10. After the reading, allow a few moments for quiet reflection. Then signal Reader 2 to begin.

Reader 2: Our response to the prayers is: The hungry shall be satisfied.

All: The hungry shall be satisfied.

Reader 2: When we can open our eyes to the world around us and see things they way Jesus does...

All: The hungry shall be satisfied.

Reader 2: When we no longer see colors of black or white or know who is rich or poor we know...

All: The hungry shall be satisfied.

Reader 2: When we work together to problems and care for the least of our brothers and sisters...

All: The hungry shall be satisfied.

Go Forth

Prayer Leader:

Let's pray together the prayer that Jesus taught us. Our Father...

Announcements and Refreshments

Offer thanks to those who helped with the session ... the game show contestants, game show host and helper, the announcer, adult helpers, and those who led prayer. Thank the participants for their great work, enthusiasm, creativity, and courage! Invite them to enjoy some refreshments and social time. Let's celebrate!

*The websites mentioned in this session were accessed successfully
on August 24, 2006.*

This session was written by [Jane Angha](#), Director of Faith Formation, St. Bernard Parish, Appleton, Wisconsin.

Note: This session is from the Winter 2007 season of **Youth Ministry Access**, the online subscription service for Catholic youth ministry leaders in middle school and high school youth ministry. **Youth Ministry Access** is a resource of the Center for Ministry Development. For more information, contact YMA@CMDnet.org or visit www.YouthMinistryAccess.org.

Resource 1

Game Show...The Price We Pay Contestant Identities

Carlos Madera – 25 years old, married with one daughter. He is here in the United States living with his brother working as a day laborer. He left his country in search of a better life where he could take care of his family with better health care, education and safety. He loves his work in construction. His wife and daughter are in Central America yet. He sends most of his pay check home to care for them. They are saving up their money so his wife and daughter can join him in the U.S. He loves fishing, football, and the Food Network.

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Sarah Martin – 29 years old, single mother of John, who is 6, and Justin, who is 3. Sarah works in the library at the local community college where she is a part-time student. She also works at a nursing home at night. She loves to go to movies and play in the park with her children when she can. Sarah hopes that once she is done with college she will be able to spend more time with her children, take them on a vacation, not have to worry about affording things they need, and will have the ability to go to the dentist and doctor more regularly.

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Grace Vance – 82 years old, widow, lives in a low-income retirement center. Grace has five grown children and nine grandchildren. She loves to knit, watch game shows on TV, and plays poker now and then. Grace and her husband had a little grocery store while they were younger, but when the megastore moved into town, it put them out of business. They retired and mainly help their children and grandchildren.

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Michael McManus – 45 – owner and CEO of a paper company. One of his lifelong dreams was to be on this game show! Michael is married with two children who are in high school. He coaches his daughter's soccer team and is very active in the United Way as a volunteer and loves to golf. He and his wife just got back from a trip to Fiji.

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Helen Anderson – 56 – former third grade teacher. Helen was in a car accident a few years back and cannot work any more. She had lots of surgeries and needed daily medical care. She is now unable to afford her apartment. She is living in a local shelter for women. She would love to be in an apartment again where she could have her favorite pet back with her ...her cat, Angel. Helen loves TV and game shows especially. She misses teaching, and would like to tutor the homeless children in the shelter.

Resource 2

Game Show ... The Price We Pay Announcer Script

Announcer: Good evening and welcome to The Price We Pay... the newest game show on television. My name is Alfred Grablehorn here to tell you what today's contestants might just win (host helper holds up the applause sign):

A two-week supply of Kraft Macaroni and Cheese...a George Forman mini-grill that fits right in your pocket, and an all-expense paid trip to the Spam Museum in Wisconsin! (host helper holds up the applause sign)

Now, let's say hello to the Host of our show...Bobbie Blarker! (host helper holds up the applause sign)

Announcer: Bobbie, we have some interesting contestants today. Michael McManus ... come on down! Helen Anderson ... come on down! Carlos Madera ... come on down! Sarah Martin ... come on down! Grace Vance ... come on down!

The host will ask the announcer to tell us about the items the contestants will bid on.

Announcer: Bobbie, today's item is a delicious chicken dinner...family size. We have a golden roasted free-range chicken that has been marinated in special spices and will be as easy to slice as butter. The potatoes are white and fluffy, fluffed to perfection and topped with butter, parsley, and a hint of nutmeg. The carrots have been gently sautéed in a creamy dill sauce – tender, juicy, and full of vitamins. The dinner rolls are soft and fluffy, warm and toasty. For dessert...a beautiful chocolate cake made with the finest imported chocolate and sugars. That's it Bobbie...it sure makes me hungry looking at that beautiful meal!

(The game is played.)

When the game is over...

Announcer: Thank you to today's contestants and our studio audience. Join us again for another chance to win and win big on the Price We Pay! I'm Alfred Grablehorn wishing you a seriously super evening. Good Night!

Resource 3

Game Show ... The Price We Pay Game Show Host Script

Once the Announcer has introduced the game show host, Bobbie Blarker...the Host will run onto the stage and say hello to the audience.

Bobbie: Let's get started, Alfred. Who are our first contestants on the Price We Pay?

(After the contestants are on stage, or up in front of the audience...)

Bobbie: Welcome everyone. I have an envelope for each of you...and in it is some money. Actually, it is the same amount of money you normally spend on any given meal for you and your family. You are to bid on the big item today. Once we have all the bids in, you will open your envelope to see whether or not you can afford the big item.

Let's start with our first contestant...tell me a bit about yourself. (Do this with each contestant.)

Bobbie: Let's find out what our big item is today.
(The helper rolls out the chicken dinner on a cart and makes overly exaggerated hand motions around it!)

Bobbie: Wow...that is some chicken dinner! Mmmm. Looks absolutely edible!!
Let's start the bidding.
Helen - your bid.
Michael - what is this worth to you?
Carlos - your bid?
Sarah - what do you think this might cost?
Grace - I bet you made some delicious chicken dinners over the years...what is this worth to you?

(Once all the bids are in...ask the helper to turn over the sign in front of the dinner and reveal the price.)

Bobbie: Alright - let's see who wins this delectable dinner. Open your envelopes.

Helen - do you have enough to cover your bid? (No.)

Carlos - do you have enough to cover your bid? (No.)

Sarah - do you have enough to cover your bid? (No.)

Grace – do you have enough to cover your bid? (No.)

Michael – do you have enough to cover your bid? (Yes!!)

Our winner today...of the incredible chicken dinner is Michael McManus!
Remember...everyone is a winner today. All of our contestants will go home with the consolation prizes...the mini grill and the Kraft macaroni and cheese.

Michael...as the grand prize winner, you will also receive the all-expenses paid trip to the Spam Museum in Wisconsin! Thank you contestants, you've been great. That's all for today, folks. Thanks and good bye!

Resource 4

Game Show ... The Price We Pay **Directions for Contestants**

When you are called down to the stage, run up waving your arms and look very excited!

You will be given an envelope from the game show host, Bobbie Blarker. Don't open it until the end of the game.

You will be asked to bid on the chicken dinner. Be sure to bid high...but not too crazy. The cost of the dinner for real is \$35. So, make your bid \$25, \$20, \$19, \$16, and Michael can bid \$30.

You will be asked to tell about yourself. You will have the basic information about your identity. Feel free to add some of your own ideas.

When Bobbie Blarker asks you to look in your envelope to see if you have enough money to cover your bid...pull out the money and count it eagerly and then show your disappointment by saying how much is really in the envelope.

When the game is over...walk off the stage and find a seat in the audience again.

Thanks for being a contestant on ... The Price We Pay!

Resource 5

Presentation on Hunger

The game show host offers a brief presentation on hunger including the following points:

- There is a very large portion of people who can barely make it today.
- Many people do not have enough money for the bare essentials. They have to make tough choices each day on how they will spend the little money they have.
- Scripture and Catholic Social Teaching encourage and challenge us to know what's going on in the world around us and to respond to problems that hurt those who are most in need...the poor and those who have no one to speak on their behalf.
- Hunger is a world-wide epidemic. A crazy thing to imagine in a world that is technologically advanced, more affluent than ever, and capable of solving social problems on a global level.
- Hunger affects everyone.
- Those who are hungry face physical pains from lack of food, poor nutrition, disadvantages at school or work, or inability to do anything but worry and work to finding food for the next meal.
- There are over 800 million people who are hungry around the world.
- More than 33 million Americans can't afford enough food to meet their basic needs.
- Nearly one fourth of the world's population lives on less than \$1 a day.
- Nearly one half of Africa's population lives on less than \$1 a day.
- In the United States, children are the poorest and most often go without food.
- Hunger is a problem that can be fixed!

(These statistics were taken from Crop Walk USA, www.churchworldservice.org/CROP.) Check out these websites for more statistics: Children's Defense Fund (www.childrensdefense.org), Second Harvest (www.secondharvest.org), and Catholic Relief Services (www.crs.org).

Souper Bowl of Caring Planning Small Group Instructions

Advertising 1

You will need plain copy paper, good fine-tip permanent markers or access to a computer. With your team, brainstorm on how you can get the invitation out to the community about Souper Bowl of Caring. The idea of this event is to raise awareness in your parish community about hunger and invite them to come to church on Super Bowl Sunday (February 4, 2007) and give \$1 per person to fight hunger in your city. You may also wish to ask them for a canned good along with their dollar.

Your advertisements must be clear, easy to understand, and really fun! Use your imagination and create. When you are finished, your group should have several advertisements that are ready to copy and hand out to children, parishioners, and friends.

Think about creating flyers for bulletin, handouts for children in school and faith formation, bulletin announcements, Mass announcements.

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Advertising 2

You will need markers, poster board or banner paper. With your team, create posters for walls in the church, gathering area, hallways, and classrooms. Use the Souper Bowl of Caring logo as a start, but add some statistics about hunger. Use your parish logo too. Be creative, be colorful, be clear, and make sure you have dates, times, and places...as well as what to bring to church that day (February 4, 2007)!

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Get the Facts

Your group will need a telephone book, Internet access (if possible), and a phone. You will be looking for agencies that serve the poor and hungry in your community or surrounding area. Once you have identified them, call the agency or look for a website online to learn more. Your group will determine where the money will go once it is collected. Your decision should be unanimous and well-informed. You will share your decision with the advertising groups.

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Super Sunday

Your group will be organizing for the day of the collection. What needs to be done in the days leading up to the Super Bowl? The day before? The day of? Who will be at the Masses to collect the money and food? What will you use to collect the canned items? The money? What will you wear? Is there information you want to give to people? What will it be and what will it look like? Will someone speak after Mass or make an announcement? Make a detailed list...fill in as much information as possible... gather your volunteers right away tonight. Check out www.souperbowlcaring.org.

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After the Fact

Your group will be making plans on how to pick up the food and deliver it. Make up a list of volunteers who may have a truck or will the agency that you are donating the food to pick things up? Make plans on how to inform the parish community of what you collected and how much money was donated. Plan a gathering of the group that organized the day for a celebration. When planning the after party...don't forget:

1. Thank you's
2. Recalling what you learned or add to it with new information (invite a guest from the agency who received money or food to talk to the group)
3. Plans for continuing to fight hunger throughout the year
4. Food and entertainment

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Resource 7

The Price We Pay Nametag Master

