SWAP!

YEAR 1, 25th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Write out each task listed below (or make up your own) on individual pieces of paper: one task per piece of paper. Provide the proper supplies for each task to be completed. Fold the written tasks and place them into a basket, hat or bucket. Have all the participants write their names on individual pieces of paper and drop them into a new basket, hat or bucket.

Tell the participants that they will each pull a task from the basket and be judged on how well they complete their task. Explain that occasionally you will hear the facilitator yell, "SWAP!" At that time all the participants have to stop what they are doing and listen as the facilitator calls two names at a time. Each pair called has to swap tasks with each other. No one is to start working again until everyone has swapped and the facilitator starts the clock again. Emphasize that there will be multiple swaps and it is possible that participants end up with their original tasks so everyone should work well no matter which task they are completing. Explain that at the end of the game each participant will have to take full credit for their completed task and proudly stand before the group and show off what they've accomplished.

Have everyone pull a task from the basket and, on your mark, let them read it and begin. After about 1.5 minutes yell, "SWAP!" and make sure no one moves. Take the name basket and quickly pull out two names at a time and have those individuals swap projects. Leave those names outside the basket so that you do not pull them again. After everyone has swapped places, start the tasks again by yelling, "Get set, GO!" or the like.
Place all the names back into the basket and shake them up well. After another two minutes or so yell "SWAP!" again and repeat the swap process. You may do this as often as you would like. But once you notice that people are close to completing their tasks call one final "SWAP!" and give them 30 seconds to complete what they have to do.

Gather everyone around and have one person at a time present their "accomplishments". Emphasize that they have to "proudly" take credit for the project and share the best attributes. After everyone has presented and you've all had a good laugh, ask the group if they liked taking credit for what others did or if it was "nerve-wracking" or frustrating. Ask, how they liked watching someone take credit for or change or destroy the hard work they did. Then explain that this is experience is much like the Christian life which is all about giving up our accomplishments and giving them to someone who needs them and taking on the accomplishments of others that we need (sharing, unity, etc.). Sometimes it is frustrating and nerve-wracking It may seem unfair and futile BUT ONLY IF we aren't really working for love of Christ and our brothers and sisters. We have to learn to give all our credit where it's really due: to Christ, our God. We have to learn to free ourselves from our attachments and desires and open ourselves up to charity and generosity so that we can all reach the heavenly finish line together.

Tasks:
- Build a car out of marshmallows and spaghetti noodles.
- Build a replica of the US Capitol building out of Legos
- Put together a 100 piece puzzle
- Build a house of cards
- Design a fashionable new outfit made entirely of toilet paper