**MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY ‘ESCAPE’**

 **SERVICE PROJECT**

**** Boxes of Joy

 **Friday, November 1st**

 **at St. Martin’s, 7710 El Cajon Blvd., La Mesa**

 **6:30 – 8:15 p.m.**

 **Schedule: 6:30 – 7:00 shop at the Dollar Tree on Baltimore & El Cajon Blvd.**

 **7:15 – arrive at St. Martin’s for instructions & activities**

 Snack Bar will have Pizza & soda available for purchase

This annual service project is to purchase small toys, school supplies, books & personal items to fill a shoe box, which will be sent to children that are part of Catholic Missions across the world, to share the Spirit of Christmas. Meet at the Dollar Tree 6:30 p.m. bring $15.00 for shopping and reserve $7.00 for shipping (or shop ahead of time). Proceed to St. Martin’s Parish Hall to assemble the boxes, participate in activities, write a note to the child receiving your gift, & watch a video to see where your gift will go.

**Boxes of Joy 2024 - Shoebox packing guidelines.**

First Pick an age: 2-4, 5 -9, 10-13, and choose Boy or Girl then shop accordingly, here are some suggestions:

**A “Wow” Item** Ideas: stuffed animal, musical instrument - (harmonica, recorder), soccer ball w/pump,

 Small backpack, craft kits, watches, purse/wallet

**Personal Care Items** - brush, comb, toothbrush, toothpaste in boxes, (girls hair clips/bows), bars of soap,

 manicure kits, lip balm

**School Supplies** - pencils, pens, erasers, solar calculators, pads of paper, colored pencils, pencil cases &

 sharpeners, markers, crayons, glue stick, safety scissors, coloring book, stickers, flash cards

**Clothing and Accessories** -shirts, flip flops, scarves, hats, socks, plastic ponchos, wallet, watch, sunglasses

**Crafts and Activities** - sketch books, puzzles, compass, binoculars, chalk board/chalk, cards,

 garden glovestrowels (no seeds)

**Toys**- foam balls, cars, dolls, yo yo, small Frisbee, kite, marbles, small Etch a Sketch and such

Other items- Religious Items- Rosaries, Crosses, Saint medals, Holy Cards,

 Refillable drink cups with lids, Silverware, Sewing kit, Solar flashlight, Drawstring bags,

A Personal Note- Written from you.

***Please note*** *the only candy that can be included is hard candy, such as candy canes, or suckers (please no Jolly Rogers); place in a ziplock bag. Also, please do not include; war-related items such as toy guns, knives, or military figures; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers;*