

Community Coming Together (CCT)

December 2014

This month's theme: Community

Upcoming Events

Christmas food hamper collection

Participating schools:

École St. Thomas d'Aquin
Mother Theresa
Notre Dame Academy
St. Mary's School

Donations of non-perishable food items can be dropped off at any of these schools to help local families this Christmas.

Two Brothers & a Carpenter



Once upon a time, two brothers who lived on adjoining farms fell into conflict. It was the first serious rift in 40 years of farming side by side, sharing machinery, and trading labor and goods as needed without a hitch. Then the long collaboration fell apart. It began with a small misunderstanding and it grew into a major difference, and finally it exploded into an exchange of bitter words followed by weeks of silence.

One morning there was a knock on John's door. He opened it to find a man with a carpenter's toolbox. "I'm looking for a few days work" he said. "Perhaps you would have a few small jobs here and there. Could I help you?" "Yes," said the older brother. "I do have a job for you. Look across the creek at that farm. That's my neighbor, in fact, it's my younger brother. Last week there was a meadow between us and he took his bulldozer to the river levee and now there is a creek between us. Well, he may have done this to spite me, but I'll go him one better. See that pile of lumber curing by the barn? I want you

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Two Brothers & a Carpenter, Cont'd...

to build me a fence -- an 8-foot fence -- so I won't need to see his place anymore. Cool him down, anyhow." The carpenter said, "I think I understand the situation. Show me the nails and the post-hole digger and I'll be able to do a job that pleases you."

The older brother had to go to town for supplies, so he helped the carpenter get the materials ready and then he was off for the day. The carpenter worked hard all that day measuring, sawing, nailing. About sunset when the farmer returned, the carpenter had just finished his job.

The farmer's eyes opened wide, his jaw dropped. There was no fence there at all. It was a bridge -- a bridge stretching from one side of the creek to the other! A fine piece of work -- handrails and all -- and the

neighbor, his younger brother, was coming across, his hand outstretched. "You are quite a fellow to build this bridge after all I've said and done." The two brothers stood at each end of the bridge, and then they met in the middle, taking each other's hand.

They turned to see the carpenter hoist his toolbox on his shoulder. "No, wait! Stay a few days. I've a lot of other projects for you," said the older brother. "I'd love to stay on," the carpenter said, "but, I have many more bridges to build."

From: <http://www.ecclesia.org/truth/carpenter.html>



This story offers an opportunity to reflect on what ways we build bridges or walls in our lives. December's theme for CCT is *Community* and our major event this month is creating and distributing food and gift hampers to families in our community. Classes in our participating schools have received presentations on giving, and its benefits on our own mental health.

What are some ways you and your family can connect with each other as well as your community this Christmas season? Here are a few ideas:

- Plan and create a healthy meal together
- Knock on a neighbour's door and leave a treat
- Attend free activities in your community

- Lend a helping hand or do something nice for a friend or stranger
- Volunteer as a family
- Go through your belongings and donate items you don't use anymore
- Pick up litter in your community
- Create a new superhero who does good deeds; what is the hero's name and what good deeds does the hero do?
- Host a family board game night or try a new card game as a family
- Say hello to the people you pass when you walk or while you shop
- Write a letter or send an email as a family to a friend or family member

*Merry Christmas
from all of us at
CCT!*

