

Simple Living at St. Joseph

Christmas Clutter

November 2003

Let's Talk About Christmas! Day



*Instead of going on auto-pilot the day after Thanksgiving...
Schedule a family meeting as early as possible in November.*

Getting started

Before your meeting, if possible, share this worksheet with friends and family. Do some homework, gather some ideas, but be willing to modify or even abandon them for the sake of the group.

Brainstorm during the meeting! No idea is too goofy. No ridicule allowed.

Then refine the ideas and try to reach a consensus. Vote on ideas only as a last resort. (Voting can sometimes become competitive, even divisive.)

Afterwards, share the results tactfully with the others in your celebrating circle, even with those who did not make it to the meeting. Post the results in a prominent place in your household.

Additional Resources



The Center for a New American Dream

<http://www.newdream.org/holiday>

- ◆ Download an excellent “Simplify the Holidays” brochure.
- ◆ Find gift tips and ideas.
- ◆ Learn about a recent holiday poll and holiday statistics.
- ◆ Send a “Simplify the Holidays” e-card.
- ◆ Sing “holiday carols for the responsible consumer.”



ALTERNATIVES
FOR SIMPLE LIVING

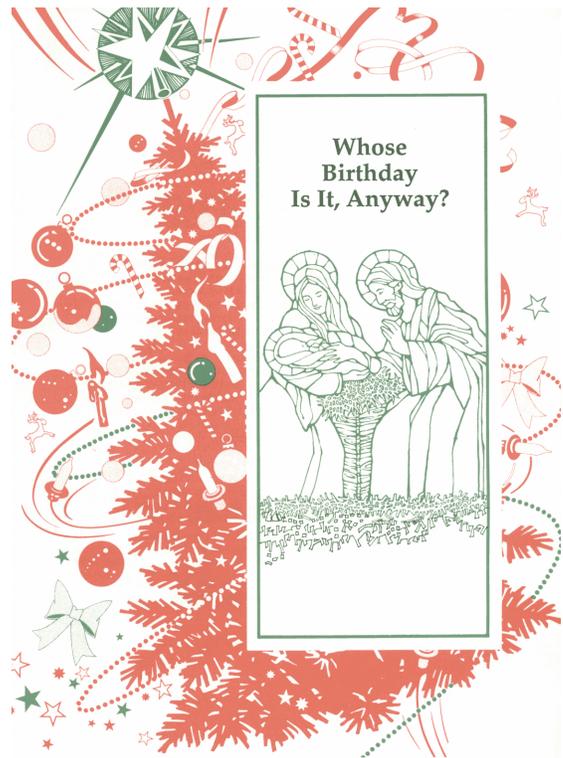
<http://www.simpleliving.org/Archives/>

- ◆ Find Advent/Christmas calendars.
- ◆ Discover a wealth of resources, particularly from a faith perspective, including reflections, stories, and activities for all ages.

Buy Nothing Christmas

<http://www.buynothingchristmas.org>

- ◆ Download an information kit and posters.
- ◆ Learn about the Christian basis for the campaign.
- ◆ Read ideas and stories from people across North America.
- ◆ Find alternative gift ideas and other resources.



Commitment to Resist the Consumer Christmas

In response to God's great gift, I will:

- Remember whose birthday is being celebrated;
- Earmark at least 25% of my Christmas giving budget for those who are truly in need of my gifts;
- Set aside time each day to read Scripture, pray, be still and prepare for the coming of the Prince of Peace;
- Include the hungry, the stranger, the sick and the imprisoned in my Christmas celebration;
- Strive to be a peacemaker in my family, community and world;
- Take back my celebration of Christmas from the marketplace by resisting consumer pressures to spend beyond my means.

(From *Alternatives For Simple Living*)

“Let’s Talk About Christmas! Worksheet” and other resources provided by Alternatives for Simple Living – *Equipping people of faith to challenge consumerism, live justly and celebrate responsibly* – since 1973.

Cover artwork from The Center for a New American Dream.



St. Joseph Community
Serving Alameda, CA
and surrounding areas



For more information about simple living at St. Joseph and available resources, see: www.stewardshipparish.org