



3 Fantastic Flea Market

There's no time like Christmas for a flea market. In these days of tight cash and stretched budgets, a flea market is a real service.

Many people have odds and ends taking up space at home. By using some of the alternative Christmas gift ideas which appear on page 12 of this issue, you can augment the odds and ends with newly made gifts of your own. The trick to putting on a successful flea market is organizing the event and involving as many teens as possible.

FLEA MARKET

BEST BETS

all kinds of clothing, especially old stuff from grandma's day

anything for the kitchen

handy-person items like hammers, screw drivers, wrenches

pictures and frames

small nick-nacks

ceramic pieces, odd dishes, cups and saucers

all kinds of furniture

religious items

books, hardcover and paperback

sewing materials, patterns, yarn

crocheted and knitted items, linens

homemade backed goods

children's toys

plants

records, cassettes and 8 tracks

What to Get

Ask everyone you can think of to set aside items they would be willing to donate. Don't forget to tell them that gifts are tax-deductible and give them a statement of their contribution's worth if they want one. (This helps promote better gifts.) Spread the word via bulletin announcements, notes distributed to likely parishioners and school parents, a door-to-door canvas by teens in person or on the phone. Set up several drop-off points in convenient locations. Offer pick-up service.

Add to this collection simple items your group makes. Consider small banners and surprise gift boxes. Try selling raffle tickets for particularly valuable items.

Organizing for the Big Day

Begin to advertise early. In addition to your own and other nearby parishes, place announcements in the newspaper. The week of your flea market, place an ad in classified section. Place posters in prominent places in the area, especially at local malls and supermarkets.

Organize and price items as they are collected. Small adhesive labels from the stationery store are ideal. If you need help pricing, ask a few parents who frequent sales to help.

Sign up members to take certain responsibilities at certain times and post this information for easy reference. In addition to your sale booths, offer food and drinks for sale. Try to make the area look as attractive as possible and try to choose a place with ample parking.

Since most flea markets make a good bit of money, be sure that your group considers carefully how they will use it. Insist that at least some goes to the needy.