

HIGH SCHOOL Youth Group has been doing great things... ... BIG and small



Tom, Jacob, Steve and Annie watched (above) as Jackie and Matt worked on a communication puzzle (right).

In December the **youth leadership team** met for the first day of formation and planning. The morning was spent in spiritual and leadership formation and we finished off with an intense planning session. This group of peer leaders will start leading aspects of the youth group this month. They will take on Sunday night youth group activities along with retreat planning and other responsibilities.



Pro-Life Youth Rally



[Kate, a Youth Group adult leader & Kathyrine talk before the Rally began.]

On Sunday, January 11, the High School Youth Group hosted an **ecumenical pro-life youth rally**. Approximately 190 youth from area churches joined us for pizza, prayer, and a great set of speakers. We heard from Problem Pregnancy Help Center, U-M Students for Life, and other pro-life organizations. Additionally we had a speaker who told stories of his days as a commercial diver to illustrate his pro-life talk. It was a great experience and we look forward to next year's rally.



Alan, Tom, and Jacob enjoy dinner with a friend from Christ the King parish prior to the Rally.

Roma, Assisi, Köln What do these have in common?

Parish youth and young adults will visit these cities in August of 2005 for

World Youth Day 2005



Over the last month **people ages 16-35** have signed up to go on the World Youth Day 2005 pilgrimage – taking our group from Rome, to Assisi, to Cologne, Germany – where we will join over a million young people from around the world to celebrate our Catholic faith in a week-long program culminating with a mass celebrated by Pope John Paul II.

Please keep our pilgrims in your prayers. We will keep you posted on our preparations and of course fund-raising for this amazing opportunity!

Continuing the journey toward Confirmation

Thank you for praying for our Confirmation candidates. These 120 young people were presented to the parish community at the 5 p.m. Mass on Sunday, February 15.

During the Presentation Mass, the candidates publicly professed their faith to the community and received a special blessing. They also created cards inviting parish members to offer their prayers and support as they continue their journey toward Confirmation. Hopefully you took home a card and are already acting as a prayer sponsor for one of our candidates! If so, please send them a note letting them know about your gift of prayer.

Attention Seventh Grade Students/Parents:

The first orientation meeting for next year's Confirmation candidates will be held in May. If your son or daughter is currently in the seventh grade (or older) and desires to begin preparation, please watch for details on this meeting. For more information, call Rita Zyber at 821-2133.

These candidates have been involved in a rigorous formation process. They have researched 60 questions about the Catholic faith, contributed at least 30 hours of service, learned about the sacraments and completed a saint report. They have also taken part in one-on-one interviews and enjoyed a wonderful retreat in January, led by a youth evangelization team.

Their hard work will be rewarded at the Confirmation Mass, to be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 21. All are invited to join this community celebration.

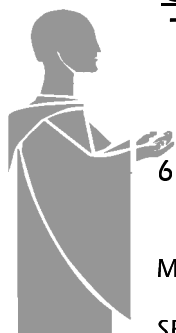
Confirmation is one of the sacraments of initiation into the Catholic Church. It is an extension of their Baptism and calls the candidate into a deeper life of faith. We have encouraged these students to become more actively involved in our parish community and to use the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit for the "common good," as St. Paul tells us.

Please make them feel welcomed as valued members of our parish.

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC SCHOOL

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO OUR

**ANNUAL INFORMATION /
OPEN HOUSE NIGHT
TUESDAY, MARCH 9**



6:30 P.M.

IN THE PARISH ACTIVITIES CENTER

MEET OUR STAFF

SEE OUR FACILITY

MEDIA CENTER
MIDDLE SCHOOL COMPUTER LAB
SCIENCE LAB
ART ROOM
MUSIC ROOM
GYM

THE ST. FRANCIS HEARTBEATS
JUMP ROPE TEAM WILL PERFORM
AT THE END OF THE EVENING

2270 East Stadium Blvd
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
734/ 821-2200

"PEACE BEGINS WHEN THE HUNGRY ARE FED"

Heifer International



**St. Francis Catholic School Children
and Middle School Parish Youth
Buy Two Gift Arks of Animals!!!**

Hungry families around the world will enjoy a happier new year thanks to the generous efforts of hundreds of children in the St. Francis of Assisi Parish community. During the Advent season, children in kindergarten through eighth grade at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School, and the middle school students in the St. Francis of Assisi Religious Education program worked to raise a goal of \$5,000 to buy a 'Gift Ark' of animals for Heifer International. The children earned money by serving their own families, doing extra chores around the house, and many of the children donated money from savings accounts and piggy banks. At the school Mass on December 19th, principal Linda Miller proudly announced that over \$10,000 was raised and the children would be able to buy two Gift Arks of animals. Each Gift Ark includes pigs, camels, water buffalo, guinea pigs, ducks, chicks, oxen, cows, rabbits, donkeys, beehives, sheep, llamas, geese and goats to help people across the globe.