

## St. Francis of Assisi Elementary and Middle School

# The Three T's of *School Stewardship*

Enabling our children to embrace stewardship of their God-given gifts of Time, Talent, and Treasure is the basis of St. Francis School stewardship activities.

The school Leadership Council collected money from our students for Red Cross comfort kits to be given to hurricane victims. This demonstrated the sharing of our treasure.

The early elementary students shared their treasure by generously donating a truckload of pet food and toys, cat litter, towels, and pet supplies to the Huron Valley Humane Society to celebrate the Feast of St. Francis.

Middle school students donated their time and talent to decorate bags and fill them with Halloween treats for St. Benedict School, our sister Parish. We hope to establish a pen pal writing program with St. Benedict School, and possibly have St. Francis students and teachers visit and participate in a day at St. Benedict School to share our gifts.



Middle School students prepare treat bags.



### **ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI Elementary & Middle School** 2005-2006 SCHOOL YEAR

#### **PRE-REGISTRATION INFORMATION SESSION**

If you are interested in enrollment for Grades K – 8, please join us for one of these informal question & answer sessions and a tour of the school, in the Parish Activities Center (PAC)

**JANUARY 27, 2005 – 1:00 P.M.**

OR

**FEBRUARY 7, 2005 – 7:00 P.M.**

#### **REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

Please call (734) 821-2200 to place your name on our mailing list. Registration information will be mailed in late February 2005

#### **OPEN HOUSE/INFORMATION EVENING**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2005**

The evening begins with a meeting at 6:30 P.M. in the PAC

2270 E. Stadium Blvd ♦ Ann Arbor, MI 48104

(734) 821-2200 ♦ [stfschool@rc.net](mailto:stfschool@rc.net)

Learn more at: [www.stfrancisa2.com/school](http://www.stfrancisa2.com/school)

At the school Halloween Carnival, students had the opportunity to give up one or many of their prizes and use their time and talent to decorate Halloween bags, which were given to Safe House and the St. Louis Center in Chelsea.

The School Stewardship Committee works with the Parish Social Ministry to determine needs that match our size and giving potential. During Advent, each classroom will sponsor a needy family from the Family Independence Agency of Washtenaw County. The students will provide needed gifts for their “family”. Volunteers from each class, along with their families, will deliver the donated items personally to each designated recipient.

As Christians, we believe that everything we have comes from God. We can show our thanks by caring for all the gifts God has given us and by using them in ways that are pleasing to Him. By involving our children, we help them understand the importance of stewardship and show them that it is part of what we do as followers of Christ.

## What's it like to be a Middle School student?

### Did you know?

- Middle school students prefer dogs over cats?
- They would most like to go to Cedar Point, Florida, the Bahamas or Europe for a vacation.
- They get annoyed with their little brothers, mean people and bugs.
- They like to eat candy, pizza and anything with sugar in it.
- They would like to invent a money tree or a magnetic car.
- Their favorite restaurants are all over the city, but they especially like Macaroni Grill and Applebees.
- Spongebob Squarepants is one of their favorite TV Shows, and Harry Potter 3 was among the top movies this year.
- During the summer, they like to meet new friends, go to camp and sleep in.



What does all this mean? It's not scientific research, but Middle School students do like to tell us what's on their minds.

These were the results of a very informal survey taken at a recent gathering of the Y.E.S. Middle School Youth Group.

We meet once a month for social activities and some deeper discussion

about how Christ is working every day in their lives. So far this year, the students have helped with some parish service projects, they raised money for Heifer International, and they worked outdoors to care for a local park. They listened to various types of Christian music and played some games to help promote teamwork.

Events are open to middle school students from all area schools. Come and bring a friend!



### *Want to learn more about Y.E.S. events:*

For more information, contact:

**Rita Zyber at 821-2133 or [rzyber@stfrancisa2.org](mailto:rzyber@stfrancisa2.org)**

## Caring for God's Creation

Middle School students can do a lot of good work, especially when it comes to cutting down trees.

The Y.E.S. group spent three hours on Nov. 7 working at Sylvan Park to clear and cut invasive Buckthorn trees that were taking over the natural wooded areas of the park.

A park naturalist explained that the work will help let sunlight through and promote the growth of native plants and wildflowers in the spring.



### **Next Y.E.S. Event:**

*Holiday Babysitting and Service Saturday*

December 4  
at 10 a.m.-1 p.m. in the PAC

Help care for children so their parents can go Christmas shopping.

Work on other service projects, too. Donations go to Heifer International.

# Religious Education Classes for Children are in Session



St. Francis offers religious education classes to children aged preschool through 8th grade. Currently, for the 2004/05 school year, there are 728 children enrolled in the religious education program. For information on the program or to enroll your child, please call us at 821-2130.

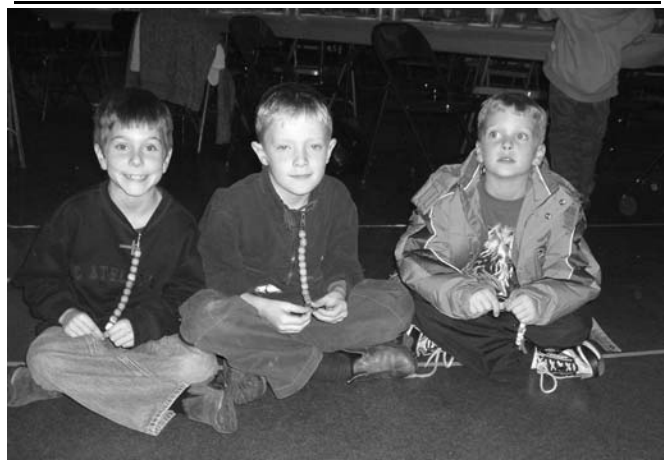
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*Left:* Children search for ice cream bars at the Ministry Fair in September. Religious Education for children is one of the many ministries here at St. Francis.

*Below:* Children prepare to pray a decade of the rosary, asking God to bless the people in their lives with every good thing. The rosaries were strung as part of an All Saint's/All Soul's assembly. The assembly ended with soft pretzels as a snack with the shape of the pretzel reminding us of arms folded for prayer or blessing.



*Below:* The catechists came together for a time of business, reflection, and new ideas. Gail Drake, art teacher from St. Francis school, demonstrated Christmas activities for children.



*Left:* Second grade children focus on learning of God's great love for us in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The children will celebrate the Sacrament in December.

*Below:* Catechists, Stephanie Gelderloos and Nora Gomez, check out the materials at the Common Conference in Lansing. the Conference offered a variety of formation workshops for those involved in religious Education.

