

## ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM, O LORD!!

Each November we especially remember our faithful departed. We thought it would be appropriate to list in this edition of *The Canticle* all of those of our parish who have gone to the Lord since last All Souls Day. Please remember them in your prayers. Their names are:



<i>Howard Richardson</i>	<i>Kim Anderson</i>
<i>William Lemmer</i>	<i>Andras Miklos</i>
<i>Ernest Dascola</i>	<i>Patricia Kay</i>
<i>Nancy Desmond</i>	<i>Dorothy Schoenhofen</i>
<i>John Blayer</i>	<i>Yolanda Gurney</i>
<i>Richard Dunn</i>	<i>Catherine Gavin</i>
<i>Maureen Smith</i>	<i>Gregory Contrucci</i>
<i>Briona Boyer</i>	<i>Olivia Walker</i>
<i>Bette Root</i>	<i>Lidija Zairns</i>
<i>Margaret Dalimonte</i>	<i>Mary Rose Hall</i>
<i>Joseph Libs</i>	<i>Wayne Swanson</i>
<i>Gil Olegario</i>	<i>Nellie LaLonde</i>
<i>Marian Nierath</i>	<i>Gertrude Reason</i>
<i>Edward Cho</i>	<i>Victor Serino</i>
<i>Frances Rominski</i>	<i>John Rodriguez</i>
<i>Michael Flemming</i>	<i>Anthony Vuocolo</i>
<i>Guia Santiago</i>	<i>Daniel Carito</i>
<i>Mark Miller</i>	<i>Cheryl Risser</i>
<i>Edward Libs</i>	<i>Robert Stapleton</i>
<i>Vickie Kiel</i>	

### *Book of Eternal Life . . .*

During the month of November, as the crisp chill of autumn air began to penetrate, as leaves fell from the trees, as plants died and animals began to burrow into their homes, we were reminded of the end of days, when time will be no more. At St. Francis we especially remember members of our families and friends as well as the lonely and forgotten who touched our lives. We set aside time to record their names in the *Book of Eternal Life*, the names of our faithful departed who assisted us in life and in return receive assistance from us in their death.



## *Engaged Couples Receive Blessing*

One of the wonderful parts of belonging to the Catholic Church is the opportunity to mark passages and movement through ritual. For eight couples who are preparing to be married in the Church in the next few months, just that occurred October 18<sup>th</sup> at the 5:00 p.m. mass. Those couples had completed a series called How to Live Our Marriage with Faith that helps them learn about the spirituality of living as a Christian married couple in today's world. After the liturgy, they gathered with their sponsor couples for a candlelight reception in the PAC.

How to Live Our Marriage with Faith is one component of the comprehensive preparation process that couples participate in at St. Francis as they prepare for their life together. Another component, the *Sponsor Couple Program*, links each couple with a mentor couple. The two couples meet five times over the course of a few months to explore issues effecting married couples and their relationship with each other. Wonderful bonds have occurred between these couples that have continued as supportive friendships throughout the early married years of the newly weds.

The Catholic Church is a leader in marriage preparation. Churches of other denominations are looking us to see how they can help their couples become better prepared, and hopefully more successful in staying committed to their wedding vows.

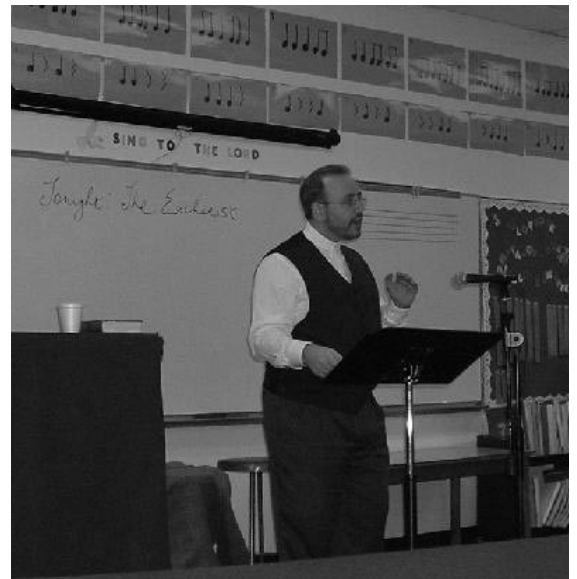
## **Encounters with Christ:** *The Sacraments*

“Liturgy or the celebration of the sacraments is at the center of the life of the Church. Founded by Christ the sacraments or more correctly the sacramental system are a sign of the salvation, which he gained for us. They are encounters with the Risen Christ, that allow us, the Body of Christ, through different liturgical actions, symbols and functions to be mysteriously united with Christ, the head. In these sacramental moments we not only give perfect worship to God but we prolong on earth the communication of God's grace to all who come before him with a fitting heart.”

That statement by Father James Conlon introduced the series on the Sacraments that was held at St. Francis this past September and October. Thirty-five participants attended the five-week series that began in response to the expressed need in our parish to learn more about the mass and the sacraments.

Besides a compelling presentation each week by Father James, those in attendance engaged in lively discussion and questioning, probing deeper the meaning of the various sacraments and their impact. Father James also put together comprehensive handouts for each sacrament that participants received.

Members of the Adult Formation and Education Committee made cassette tapes of each evening's presentation. Those will be available to lend along with the Sacrament series notes, when the parish library opens some time this winter..



*Photo: Father James Conlon emphasizes an important point during his presentation on the sacraments*

## *Middle School Students Learn the Rewards of Service*

It takes many hands to do the work of the Church. As part of the Y.E.S. Middle School Youth Ministry, a group of students have been busy with several parish service projects.

The students, from many schools in the area, prepared food bags and made ornament tags for the parish Giving Tree.

They also got involved in Service Saturday on De-



*Confirmation candidates learn the importance of service during their religious education classes.*

cember 6, which included Holiday Babysitting and a bake sale. Donations from both these projects will go to Heifer International, an organization that gives food and income-producing animals to poor families and teaches them environmentally-friendly ways to care for them.

As the students give their time for others in need, they learn that service and working toward the common good is part of Catholic Social Teaching. It's what Jesus asks of *all* His followers.

Raising money for Heifer International has spread the message about world hunger. The students watched a video showing the life of Beatrice, a girl in Uganda, who had only one red dress that had to be cut down the back so she could continue to wear it as she grew larger.

Beatrice has been transformed, and is now preparing for college, thanks to Heifer International, which gave her family a goat so they could get nutritious food and earn an income.

We all have responsibilities to care for the poor and to care for God's creation. Hopefully, our Middle School students are learning the rewards of living out Christ's teachings.

## **St. Francis School is filling the Ark**

Service is an important part of a Christian education. That's why students at St. Francis School are going all out to fight world hunger this Advent season.

The school's Service Committee kicked off an ambitious project on November 17 to raise funds for Heifer International. The day started with a rally that included some live farm animals provided by Belinda McGuire and her family.

The students also heard a speaker from Heifer International, who explained the good work of this unique organization.

Their goal is to buy an entire Gift Ark, which costs \$5,000. This gift will provide farm animals and training to help 30 families in need worldwide.

For more information on the programs of Heifer International, visit their website at [www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org) or call them at (800) 698-2511.



*Fourth-graders at St. Francis School get ready to support the work of Heifer International. They are shown with a paper ark, the symbol of this service project.*