



Growing Disciples – Wednesday Wrap
Glorifying God – Growing in Faith
Living our Catholic Faith in the World

March 5, 2014 Edition

Special Edition – Nigerian Seminary Fund:

Lent is begun and I hope your parish community youth will join many others from around the diocese in helping us improve the educational opportunities of hundreds of young people in Nigeria. This brief newsletter is designed to provide much of the information to help you plan and implement a process that not only will help with this fundraiser, but also help connect the children and youth to the reason why we are doing this.

In 2007 my family and I went to visit my oldest step-daughter who was in Kenya volunteering for the Peace Corp. While there we visited two private schools administrated by Churches: one Catholic and one Evangelical Protestant. The Catholic School educated males and females while the Evangelical Protestant was a school for boys. Both schools needed so much and yet the education that they received helped the community and that family in so many ways. We have an opportunity to be a part of this school in Nigeria that is making a difference in the spiritual and physical lives of this community.

Our faith formation youth and colleagues at St. Mary/Holy Cross in Elkhart took up the challenge before Lent began and raised \$581.00 through a wonderful bake sale. Tammi McClain and Sonya Staudt are very proud of their “kiddos” and we are very proud of them.

Formula For Success:

1. Tell the children/youth/families the story of these young Nigerian students. Please use the link to the new YouTube video produced for this year.
 - a. Building the Kingdom Video -
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9rJphrSzxNI&feature=youtu.be.com>
2. Show them pictures of the conditions by which the students learn. This is found on the front page of the Faith Formation website:
 - a. <http://www.dmdiocese.org/faith-formation.cfm>
3. Work with your pastor and families and set a goal for what you would like to achieve by the end of Lent. E-mail that information to me at jgaffney@dmdiocese.org so that Sherri, Tessa, Cheryl and I can pray for your children and youth as they progress towards their goal.
4. Discover the best way your parish community can achieve that goal through some project:
 - a. bake sale
 - b. Lenten fish fry
 - c. collecting and redeeming pop cans throughout Lent from the parish
 - d. Have kids pay \$1.00 to vote who they would put in jail: Father/DRE/Youth Minister/Coach. Great picture opportunity...

- e. Bingo – get a few local businesses to offer some prizes or gift certificates and hold a bingo game for \$1.00 a game.
 - f. Eat for a cause – ask a local restaurant to donate a percentage of their take for the night for this fundraiser
 - g. Skip a meal/coffee/pop – give up some food item and use that money as a collection towards the Nigerian Seminary Fund.
 - h. Have children color and send individual note card request to parishioners.
 - i. Chili cook-off. Some people make the Chili and then have dinner after Mass. Offer a gift certificate for the winner of the chili cook-off
 - j. Pancake Breakfast
5. Hold the event and advertise before it happens...tell others the story about the Nigerian students.
 6. Send me a final report and take lots of pictures so we can brag about you at the diocese.

Please let me know if there is anything I can do to help you with this project. As someone who has the incredible opportunity to be with our sisters and brothers in the third world, the amount of money we can provide will be used well to increase the opportunities for so many children.

God bless you.

Prayer for the First Week of Lent:

Mother or a child:

From St. Paul's 2nd Letter to the Corinthians (2 Cor. 6:1-2) Dearly beloved, we entreat you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For he says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, and in the day of salvation I have helped you. Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation."

Father: This time of fasting has opened to us the gates of paradise. Let us accept it, praying and beseeching.

Family: That on the day of resurrection we may be glorified in the Lord.

Father: Let us pray. Through the observance of Lent, O Lord, You purify Your Church every year. See to it that Your children lead a better life and so obtain the graces they are striving to acquire by doing penance. This we ask of You through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son.

Family: Amen.

Father: Let us bless the Lord.

Family: Thanks be to God.

Father: May the almighty and merciful Lord, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless and keep all of us.

Family: Amen.