

# Catholic Action Responsibility and Education At St. Cecilia School

November 2008

Last summer Pope Benedict XVI announced that from June 2008 to June 2009 the church would celebrate a year in honor of St. Paul the Apostle. This celebration is a time to become more familiar with this dynamic and faith-filled early Church leader. St. Paul did not start out as a lover of Christ, rather quite the contrary. He was a Roman who dedicated his life to arresting Christians. It was a personal encounter with Christ on the road to Damascus that was the turning point in Paul's life. Once Paul believed that he was loved and called by Christ, he committed his life to sharing this message with all who would listen. He wanted everyone to know that nothing can separate us from the love of Jesus Christ and that as part of the body of Christ we all have gifts to share. Today, as Catholics, we are called to continue spreading that same message in everything we do and say. At St. Cecilia School we teach our children this message through our daily actions, through our religion classes, and through our C.A.R.E. program.

In Paul's letter to the Corinthians, we are reminded that all believers make up the body of Christ. Paul uses the image of the body to teach us that we are dependent on and responsible for one another. Paul further tells us that in order to be whole, that is, in order to be filled with Christ, we must care for all parts of the body. When we reach out to those who are suffering and are in need, we are making the body of Christ whole. Each person we meet receives Christ through us and we receive Christ through them. Our students experience this teaching of our faith through the Catholic Action Responsibility Education (C.A.R.E.) program.

Each year all students in kindergarten through eighth grade study a social justice issue in their religion classes. Part of the classroom study includes a presentation from a guest speaker who addresses the particular issue being studied. Topics covered in the past, and planned for this year, include the hungry, persons with physical handicaps, shut-ins, and the homeless. The classroom learning is then reinforced with an on-campus activity, a field trip, or an outreach activity.

The implementation and fruitfulness of the C.A.R.E. program is due to the commitment of parents and teacher to provide our students with a truly Catholic education. The C.A.R.E. program serves as a model of what can be achieved when a community works together to answer our Lord's call to love and serve one another. As we serve one another we remain mindful of Paul's words to the Corinthians "...whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God." *1 Corinthians 10:31*



# St. Cecilia School

## CARE Project Highlights

### **Second Grade:**

This focus area is **Needy Children in Orange County**. This year the Second Grade class had a bake sale and book drive. The books and proceeds of the bake sale went to help a second grade class at School of Our Lady in Santa Ana. School of Our Lady is in a tuition challenged area, so many students are receiving assistance, and no money is available for basic supplies. Our second graders were able to share their blessings with their counterparts at another Catholic school close to ours.



2nd Grade Bake Sale

### **Fifth Grade:**

October also found dedicated 5th graders partnering with our parish Knights of Columbus in their annual Tootsie Roll drive benefitting the developmentally disabled. Students handed out Tootsie Rolls at local shopping centers to raise money for this worthy cause.

### **Third Grade:**

Third grade's focus area is the **Environment**. On November 10, the class took a field trip to the Pacific Mammal Rescue Center in Laguna Beach. They learned how factors in our environment, such as trash, can harm the pacific ocean mammals. One sea lion was rescued because he was starving and could not keep food down. It turned out that the sea lion's stomach was full of trash that kept nutritious food from being absorbed by his body. To help our mammals, the class then headed to Laguna Beach to pick up trash.

3rd grade after the beach clean up

3rd grade at the Rescue Center

## Grade Level and Focus Area

<b>K'garten</b>	<b>Homeless Children</b> Christmas Toy Drive	<b>4th Grade</b>	<b>Elderly/Infirmed</b> Carmel Valley Retirement Home
<b>1st Grade</b>	<b>Poor Around the World</b> Jump Rope A Thon Heifer International	<b>5th Grade</b>	<b>Handicapped</b> Blind Children's Center KOC Tootsie Roll Drive
<b>2nd Grade</b>	<b>Needy Children in OC</b> Bake Sale/Book Drive School of Our Lady in Santa Ana	<b>6th Grade</b>	<b>Homeless/Needy</b> Soup Kitchen
<b>3rd Grade</b>	<b>Environment</b> Beach Clean Up Pacific Mammal Rescue Center	<b>7th Grade</b>	<b>Tolerance</b> Museum of Tolerance Chapman University Holocaust Survivor Day
	<b>8th Grade</b>		<b>Families in Our Community</b> Mary's Shelter

### Teachers CAREing

Our most wonderful staff and faculty (along with some of their family members) spent time on Sunday, October 19 at the Catholic Worker in Santa Ana. They served meals, played with children and helped distribute clothing to the homeless. The Catholic Worker is a home in Santa Ana that helps feed, cloth and provide evening shelter for their local homeless population. The volunteers had a great time of fellowship and fun in their service to others. Everyone went home wanting to plan another trip. Thank you Mrs. Robino for organizing the service project.

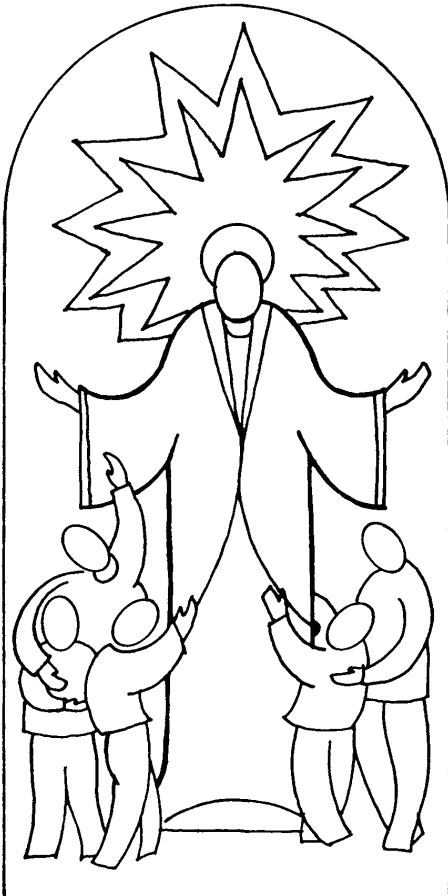
*Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his justice, and all these things shall be added unto you*

*Matthew 6:33*

## *St. Cecilia's School C.A.R.E. Committee Members*

*Coordinators: Kristin Brkich & Kathleen Graves*

<i>Kindergarten</i>	<i>Ana Miliozzi</i>	<i>5th Grade</i>	<i>Monica Estrada</i>
<i>1st grade</i>	<i>Jen Brandon</i>	<i>6th Grade</i>	<i>Kathleen Rapp</i>
	<i>Darlene Bayardo</i>		<i>Kathleen Graves</i>
	<i>Trisha Smith</i>	<i>7th Grade</i>	<i>Elana Vaughn</i>
<i>2nd Grade</i>	<i>Kathy Ayuyao</i>		<i>Kristin Brkich</i>
<i>3rd Grade</i>	<i>Victoria Thornberry</i>	<i>8th grade</i>	<i>Celine Rodrigues</i>
	<i>Lisa Busch</i>		<i>Desiree Sayre</i>
<i>4th Grade</i>	<i>Gisella Rewers</i>		



*Blessed are the poor  
for they are  
the children of God!*

### *Goals and Dreams of C.A.R.E.*

- + To create in our children an informed and compassionate attitude toward others that will remain with them throughout their lives.*
- + To teach the children that Christ's words must not only be learned, but lived at home and at school, and acted upon in our world.*
- + That students, parents, and teachers, model Christ in the way we live by treating others with respect and consideration at home and at school.*
- + As God's people, we will put our beliefs into action by reaching out in service to those in need in our communities, our country and the world.*