

## Service Efforts a Great Success and a Wonderful Witness!

### Thank You, 7th and 8th Grade

Sometimes when I write articles for the bulletin, I have a little difficulty getting started on what to write. This is one of those times where words cannot describe what I experienced or felt these past few weeks. The 7th and 8th graders in the school and CCD programs were required to do service projects here at the parish and out in our community.

The 7th graders helped organize and contribute to the success of our Craft Show and Ministry Fair. They helped set up, welcomed and greeted people (hospitality), and cleaned up and put things away. Their help was a tremendous effort and made things go so smoothly. I received comments from many parishioners as to who the young men and women were and how pleasant they were. The seventh graders also helped at the parish with grounds clearing. They cut down and cleared a dead tree at the preschool to help make it a safe environment for the children.

The eighth grade went to 15 homes with a parent and helped those who needed yard work done.

The individuals could not have otherwise done the work themselves. Organizing this service was an extremely difficult task as people were calling for help up to the last day, and most were in need of all the equipment to cut grass, trim, weed-wack, etc. The response from not only the students, but their parents as well was so gratifying, it made me extremely proud to be a part of Saint John the Baptist Community. I had parents calling me to let me know what equipment they could bring and asking what else they could do. The response from the property owners was overwhelming. They were so pleased to see how willing the students and the parents were to help and do whatever was needed done.

One parishioner came up to me after the 9:00 a.m. Mass and told me that she was not on the list to have work done, that one of the students knew her and saw that her grass needed cut, so they went over and asked if she wanted her lawn cut. They cut and trimmed both lawns. What an awesome witness!

In all, we had close to 200 students doing service for our community these past three weeks. I am so proud of our 7th and 8th graders and the community is too, they said so through their thank you. I am truly blessed to be a part of these efforts. May God continue to bless the Confirmation class as they approach their Confirmation. Be assured of our prayers as you continue your sacramental preparation.

*Greg Callaghan, Director, of Religious Education*



### Thanks for A Great Job!

This year, as part of Confirmation Preparation, 7th grade students have been required to complete service projects at St. John's. Through these service projects, we hope to reinforce the idea of the importance of giving ourselves as the Body of Christ. This October the 7th grade was very visible at the Craft Show and the Ministry Fair.

While at the Craft Show, 7th graders set-up all of the tables, chairs and craft areas, helped the crafters to unload crafts from their cars and set-up their displays, worked as runners for the crafters, served lunch and helped the young children make crafts in the Kids craft area. Many of these people attending the show commented on how helpful the 7th graders were and what a pleasure they were to work with.

The Ministry Fair found the 7th graders setting up the entire cafeteria for the fair. They helped in the hospitality area with food and also were at the doors after the masses, inviting parishioners to the fair. They also cleaned up the cafeteria afterward.

We are very impressed with the work of our young people. Congratulations 7th grade on a job well done!

*Christie Smith*

*Director of Youth Ministry*

## The Church is alive in its Young People! Great Job!

*THANKS to Christie Smith and Greg Callaghan for their work in assisting our young people grow in the sharing of their faith and as active members in our parish community. It has been great to witness these young people become more and more involved. And Greg and Christie make it happen for us, Greg responsible for all sacramental preparation, and Christie in developing ownership and responsibility through Youth Ministry.*

*Fr. Tom*