

## **Service opportunities for pre-Confirmation students**

We hope you will look at the service hours requirement as a way to be a witness of God's love to others and to help make the world a better place. While you will do these projects for two years, we hope that they will help you develop the lifelong habit of living for others as followers of Jesus.

Plenty of service opportunities are available through St. Clare Parish ministries, the community, school, your neighborhood and your home (special projects – not normal chores). Look in the Ministries Booklet, the weekly bulletin, The Eye Opener newsletter that comes to your homes and school newsletters. Ask people for ideas and share your interests and talents to help others in need. Big projects like Vacation Bible School and Oktoberfest offer ways to earn lots of service hours. Try working on a project with a family member, friend or your sponsor to make it a special experience.

We also will organize some group service events and would like to have some help with those projects. Students can count the time they spend planning a group event and learn new leadership skills.

Jane Dotson, Director of Family Faith Formation, will contact parents by email to let them know of upcoming service opportunities. For more information, to offer ideas for service projects or to volunteer to lead a project, email [janeadotson@yahoo.com](mailto:janeadotson@yahoo.com) or call her at 632-3652 or Tuesdays, Thursdays or Fridays.

### **Here are some examples of service opportunities we will offer:**

- Metro East Life Chain, Oct. 3, 2-3 p.m., by Associated Bank in Fairview Heights. Prayerful, silent witness to show our support for the sanctity of life. Members of the St. Clare Respect Life Committee are coordinating our section of the Life Chain. Signs will be provided. Bring your family.
- Be present at the United Congregations of Metro East Public Rally from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Oct. 10 at First Presbyterian Church, Granite City, to show support for local jobs, affordable housing and a responsible state budget. Carpool from St. Clare Church at 3:15 p.m.
- Babysitting for children while parents attend First Communion/First Reconciliation meeting, Oct. 25, 6:45-8:45 p.m. nursery.
- Babysitting for children on one Saturday night a month after Mass, for parents taking part in special marriage enrichment programs. TBD
- One Saturday morning: Collecting food and cash donations at Schnucks for the food pantry; need parents to help oversee students. TBD
- Monday nights during Lent. Babysitting from 5:45 to 8:15 p.m. during Lenten Soup and Speakers Series in March and April 2011
- Saturday mornings: Help stock shelves and clean up at the O'Fallon Food Pantry, 801 E. State St. Limited to 8 students; need a parent to oversee this.
- One Sunday afternoon: Help with ice cream social and bingo at Cambridge House assisted living center, 844 Cambridge Blvd, O'Fallon. Limited to 15 students; need two parents to oversee this.
- Plan a group service opportunity through Catholic Urban Programs in East St. Louis. Call or email Jane about this.