

## First Graders Make and Exceed Goal to Help the Needy

The first graders at St. John Vianney were challenged to bring in 100 cans of food for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Teachers encouraged them all week to take part in this project to help stock the ministry's bare shelves.

The students rose to the challenge and brought in 109 cans! At the end of the week, the students walked the cans over to the St. Vincent de Paul office. The students got to witness needy people standing in line waiting for canned goods. The children had big smiles on their face.

Teaching assistant Stasia Iwuc asked students, "Why do we even do these and other good deeds around school and at home?"

Karsen said, "Because God says to take care of the poor."

Nick added, "Sometimes we do things for others because we care and they might need our help."

Dylan summed it all up by remembering that "we follow the Ten Commandments and that helps us to do the right thing."

Here are some general comments from the students:

"We worked together to accomplish our goal."

"I thought the shelves were full after we brought food."

"The poor people were so proud of us."

"It felt good to help others."

-Photo and article submitted by St. John Vianney First Grade teacher, Mrs. Fernandez, and her assistant, Mrs. Iwuc, and their students in 1-A.

(Photo of SJV first graders handing over donations to earl "Chip" Burt, St. Vincent de Paul pantry volunteer at St. John Vianney Church.)

## Sixth Graders Start Green Team to Care for God's Creation

Students in sixth grade at St. John Vianney Catholic School have started a Green Team club. One of their first projects is to collect Capri Sun juice wrappers to send in for recycling purposes. Megan shared that "Terracycle helps us raise money for our school, recycle, and do things for the earth."

The classes are also putting together a Green Assembly for the school to take place later this month. "We're planning to put on a play about how to be 'green.' It's like a news report," said Stacia.

In connection with their "green way of thinking" students are writing letters to corporations to see what they are doing to be greener. We even took a field trip on Wednesday, April 22, to see "Earth", the new Disney movie to celebrate Earth Day!

Sixth graders Tommy and Julian wrote a summary reflecting their "green" projects. Here is an excerpt: "God made our Earth. If we let it go, we don't have respect for God's gift to us. It would be like throwing away His gift if we didn't take care of His Earth. We have a bulletin board in our room that simply says 'God Bless Our Earth'. Our class sees it and thinks about the message every day. With God's blessings and our care we can keep our Earth beautiful the way God made it."

-Submitted by Mrs. Burmeister's 6th grade students.

-Photo submitted by Linda Phelan . St. John Vianney 6th graders Julian & Tommy sorting Capri Sun drink bags for recycling.