

# Ascension School Mission Day

53 years of children helping children through the Missions

January 6, 2010

Dear Parents,

**Our 53<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Mission Day will be held Friday, February 12.** Who would have thought when the Ursuline Sisters started this fundraiser in 1957 with a few games on card tables in the gym, that the day would grow to be one of the most memorable events of the school year for generation after generation of Ascension students?

For those of you who are new to the school, Mission Day is an annual event to raise awareness of our baptismal call to mission and collect funds for the Church's mission efforts. For grades 1-8, it is an out-of-uniform school day with normal school hours. *There is no school for preschool, multi-age, or kindergarten on Mission Day*, although the children are welcome to come with their parents, grandparents, and other siblings to enjoy the carnival and festivities. The day starts with a prayer service for the missions and is filled with fun carnival games, a fabulous raffle, pizza lunch, movie and popcorn, and, of course, the incomparable Cake Walk and Goldfish Toss.

The bulk of the funds raised are sent to the Ursuline Missions, and the Sisters are both grateful and amazed that 20 years after leaving the school, we still continue to support their missions. In addition, proceeds go to support other mission efforts, such as the Columban Fathers (whose mission education program we use in preparation for Mission Day) and the Ascension Youth Service Projects in which our teens, including many Ascension graduates, travel each summer to Appalachia and Tijuana. We also contribute to the Parish Lenten Project.

The teachers prepare the students for Mission Day using the Columban Fathers' Mission Education program. This week-long curriculum focuses on a specific mission country for each of the grades K-6, and includes videos and worksheets. The seventh grade studies world hunger and the eighth grade world poverty. The Lenten Project is a selected project from a mission country in which the children raise all the money necessary for a specific need. In the past we have dug a well in India, constructed a retaining wall in El Salvador, provided pigs and backpacks for Haiti, purchased a grinding mill in Tanzania, constructed a reading room in the Phillipines and purchased beds and blankets for an educational center in Kenya.

Over the next few weeks, papers will go home asking for volunteers to work the booths, and for bakers for the Cake Walk and the Pastry Booth.

In the meantime, we would be very grateful for **DONATIONS**. We need donations for the following:

- Booth prizes: particularly any business promotional give-aways
- Raffle: new, more expensive gifts, or monetary donations for purchasing prizes
- White Elephant Booth: old toys and games that the children can buy

All donations reduce our overhead and translate to more money for the missions.

Thank you for your support, year after year, for Mission Day. I look forward to seeing you on February 12<sup>th</sup>!

*Helene Harlovic (386-5461), Mission Day Coordinator*