



Dear Parents,

November 8, 2023

Some of the most beautiful and formative lessons at school are not planned by the teachers. Rather, the Holy Spirit takes charge! You may remember that Bishop Conley, along with Bishops across the United States, asked Catholics to make October 17 a day of prayer and sacrifice for peace in the Holy Land. After Mass that Tuesday, I asked the children of St. James to pray and make some special sacrifices during the day. Our children, as usual, responded with wide open hearts performing many little acts of self-denial that day. One class, Sister Marie Caritas' fourth graders, decided to keep going.

Sister reports that this was not her idea. "It came from the children. They just kept putting their tallies on the board," she exclaimed. Though when making sacrifices it is usually best to keep them hidden (Mt. 6:3), I asked the fourth graders this time to share a couple of their sacrifices for the edification of others. They gladly did so.

Oscar Mendez: *"When playing soccer at recess, I help someone on the other team get up after they have fallen down."*

Juan Jose Cerritos Alas: *"I hold the door an extra-long time for elderly people going into Church."*

Leandro Lopez: *"I try not to argue during soccer and I try to be nice to my sisters."*

Berner Garcia: *"I stop playing games on my IPS5 right when my parents tell me stop, and I try not to argue with anyone."*

Elizabeth Rosales Arciga: *"I let people be in front of me in the lunch line. Even though I want to go first, I let people go in front of me."*

Henry Watts: *"When my mom made French toast sticks, I took the lesser amount and let my brother and sister have the bigger amount."*

Krew Jones: *"When I see paper towels on the floor in the boys' bathroom, I will pick them up and I'll flush the toilet if someone has forgotten."*

Broden Snyder: *"I let people go in front of me in line. Sometimes I help people carry their things."*

Carlos Romero: *"I let other people be in front of me, and I pick up little pieces of trash outside even if it was not me who dropped it."*

Sujeyli Lopez: *"I give up my swing at recess so someone else may have it."*

Kevin Carbajal Romero: *"I share toys and things with people at school and I pick up paper towels from the bathroom floor."*

James Ward: *"I share my candy with my sister and brother, and I share some other things too."*

Daysha Lorenzo Aguilar: *"I let someone go in front of me at lunch. I do this for the people who are hungry in the Holy Land."*

Karina Adame Beltran: *"I try to be nice to people, even if they are not my closest friends. I sharpen colored pencils for the class to use, and I push the little children in tire swings."*

Though we will only know in Heaven how much these sacrifices have pleased God and assisted the people of the Holy Land, Sister Marie Caritas already knows how they have helped her students. "The children's behavior in the classroom and at recess has improved! There has been far better sportsmanship at recess and overall they are kinder to each other." What a triumph! God is love and love is kind. (1 Jn 4:7. 1 Cor. 13:4)

We thank the Holy Spirit for this wonderful lesson in how prayers, sacrifices, and good deeds done for others end up blessing, strengthening, and beautifying the ones who do them.

In the Heart of Christ the King,

Sister Mary Alma, C.K.

PS By the way, in case you like numbers, as of 9:30 am this morning the fourth graders had made 1,015 sacrifices ... and counting.

October Pro-Life Diaper Drive: Thank you for your assistance in helping with the diaper drive! St. James children collected over 5000 diapers! Congratulations to grades 5 and 3 for collecting the most diapers.

Cold Weather is Coming: Please be sure your child is dressed warmly. Girls may wear solid navy blue, burgundy, white or black stockings under their jumpers.

Winter Coats?: The Knights of Columbus are once again providing winter coats for children in need. Please see the enclosed flyer.

Under the Tree: The Crete Police Department sponsors a program in which families may receive assistance in getting gifts for their children. Please let us know if you have a need.

Coming Home today: Winter Coat flyer.

Upcoming Date

November 22- 26 No School. Enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday.

November 26 Feast of Christ the King

November 30 "*Keep Christ in Christmas*" posters are due for those students participating

December 12 5th graders' Our Lady of Guadalupe play - performed immediately after Mass in the church

December 13 Pre-K and Kindergarten Christmas program - 10:30 am and 4:00 pm

December 15 1st -6th Christmas program 6:30 pm

December 21-Jan. 3 Christmas break