

Lent 2011

Dear Parents,

The sacred season of Lent begins today. During this time of walking along with Jesus, we look around us with gratitude for all that we have, and reflect on the many needy children, who look to us for help. This year's Lenten Program: **Children Helping Children**, will focus on building hope with the School Sisters of Saint Francis, my religious community, to respond to the needs of students in the Assisi Special School located in India.

This school was established to serve the needs of a small group of students with special learning needs. Ten students attended classes in the sisters' home. As time went on, the number of students has increased, and the sisters needed to find another place to serve as a school. A building has been constructed and now can serve as many as 100 other children who need the sisters' help. These students may not all have special needs, but all do come from poor families.

In the enclosed brochure, you may find news that for \$7, a month's salary for a new teacher or for \$5, the cost of a child with special needs can go to school for a month. The new school has been constructed by hand and can provide home for children with cerebral palsy, and many other medical needs. All are special children;, all are given support to build their future with hope.

Will you join me in helping these children of God? After meeting several Franciscan Sisters who are working with these children and families, I feel they are so close to our hopes and dreams for the future. We will provide two containers in school: one in the learning center on the second floor, and one in the Mrs. Boyce's office. In the past, we have addressed these needs with "Penny Wars" between the floors. This year, I would like to call this project, **Our Penny Challenge**". Can you spare any change for this project during these Lenten Days? We will use a visual to demonstrate our response to this challenge

Our students will view a prepared DVD explaining this project more in depth, from the point of view of the children. In addition, our SJCA Student Council would like to hold a raffle of many donated items, selling tickets for 25 cents each. Tickets would be sold in the mornings, and students could designate which raffle item they would like to chance. Tickets will be available for sale the days of April 4 to April 20. The drawing will take place on Wed. April 20.

May I ask you one additional favor? If you have a raffle item you would like to donate to our project, we would be most thrilled. Every helping hand of SJCA students and families will assist these students of India. I remain, extremely grateful for your help, your care and concern for these students and my Franciscan sisters serving in this faraway country. Blessings are prayed for you always.

Sister Sylvia, along with the help of

Saint Joseph Catholic Academy Student Council