

News Release from the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario

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Subject: St. Francis Xavier Catholic School Food Drive

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St. Francis Xavier Catholic School Students Learn Valuable Life Lesson

Brockville, ON – Mrs. Laura Deeve’s Grade 3 class at St. Francis Xavier Catholic School on Church Street has completed a unique food drive.

St. Francis Xavier **Principal Linda Callaghan** explained that Mrs. Deeve’s students have adapted the Board theme ***We are People of God... Transforming the World!*** to help those in need in their own community.

Mrs. Deeve’s challenged her students to earn a dollar by doing some chores or other work around their homes and neighbourhoods, “I then told them that they could take that dollar and purchase a food item that we could personally deliver to our local food bank, **Harvest House.**”

“This is a wonderful example of the Gospel values learned in our school being put in to practice,” said **Mrs. Callaghan**. “Our students are learning ways to help others in need and are inspired to continue to do so, even after projects like this one come to a conclusion.”

The goal was to have the children see how it felt to use their hard-earned money to help someone else. **Grade 3 student Alexis Nelson** said it worked. “I wanted to make more than a dollar so I could buy more than one can of food. There are people who need more than one can of food and I wanted to help.”

The 24 students gathered their collection of cans and boxes and carried them four blocks to Harvest House. As a reward, **Loaves and Fishes**, the restaurant adjacent to the food bank gave the children and Mrs. Deeve’s a spaghetti lunch.

Loaves and Fishes is a restaurant for those in need. Children ten and under eat for free, while adults pay one dollar for a full-course meal. The service is provided thanks to donations of food, a couple of hard-working employees and monetary donations from the public. The service is open to anyone who needs it and was **co-founded by Deacon Hank Gray and Deacon Bill Heasley.**

“This is such a wonderful thing that the children have done,” said **Deacon Gray**. “It’s amazing to see children learning and applying the teachings of Christ at such a young age. It’s an important lesson that they will carry with them and pass on to others for the rest of their lives.”

Alexis couldn’t agree more. “I want to keep helping by collecting food because it makes me happy to help people.”

Principal Callaghan said the students are setting a wonderful example not only for the school, but also for the entire St. Francis Xavier Catholic School Community. “The entire school is so proud of Mrs. Deeve’s class and her students’ parents are complimenting the effort. We’ve had parents telling us how wonderful it is to see their child get so involved in such a worthy cause. That is a wonderful feeling.”

For more information and interview opportunities, please contact CDSBEO Communications Officer Bob Perreault at (613) 258-7757 or (613) 859-0678 (mobile).

The Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario operates 40 elementary and 10 secondary schools across 8 counties. The CDSBEO offers excellence in Catholic education through provincial-leading programs to approximately 15,000 students.