

Follow the Star in your heart . . . It will surely lead you to Jesus!
 -- Blessed Theresa Gerhardinger

2011-12
 School Sisters of Notre Dame

Faith-a-Thon

Games help teach Catholic faith

Strolling the halls of TYME OUT Youth Ministry and Retreat Center in Milwaukee, excited students call out to one another.

“Family Feud is the best game EVER!”

“I’m glad we finally got to play this game. We’ve been studying so long for it!”

These enthusiastic sixth, seventh and eighth graders are in the middle of the annual Faith-a-thon, an event co-sponsored by TYME OUT and the Milwaukee Archdiocese.

This year, more than 200 students came to TYME OUT over two days to play a series of games that help them learn their faith facts. School Sisters of Notre Dame help lead the games.



Above: Students from St. Paul's School in Genesee Depot, Wis., display their second place trophy.



S. Barb Linke quizzes participants.

Faith-a-thon was organized 10 years ago to help young people grow and develop their

knowledge of the Catholic Faith. The event helps them to learn the language, history, and traditions which are the foundation of the Catholic faith. Of course, they also have fun doing all this!



Educating students worldwide

Blessed Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger founded the School Sisters of Notre Dame in 1833 in Bavaria, now part of Germany.

In 1847, she set out for America to help the German people who had emigrated there.

From the very beginning, the Sisters have been committed to the education of children. Today, more than 3,000 School Sisters of Notre Dame minister in 35 countries, continuing the work of Blessed Theresa.

(left) This Blessed Theresa sculpture by Sister Marie Henderson, RSM, is in St. Louis.



Summer Splash!

Two action-packed Summer Splash events brought together mothers and daughters for an overnight with the School Sisters of Notre Dame in Minnesota and in Mississippi.

At Our Lady of Good Counsel in Mankato, Minn., 38 mothers and girls, who had completed sixth through eighth grades, began with a prayer focused on Blessed Theresa Gerhardinger, SSND foundress.

The program also included a variety of fun workshops. They made stained glass coasters, beaded bracelets, decorated greeting cards, baked cookies and created performances of sacred song and movement.

They learned “Anything you’ve ever wanted to know about a Sister,” played bingo with the sisters and joined in a guided prayer.

A new feature this year was the “Amazing Race.” Through song, photos and stories, sisters gave participants an insight into their life and work on five continents – Africa, Europe, Asia, North and South America.

When invited to share one thing they learned about the School Sisters of Notre Dame, one eighth grader remarked, “They are all over the world, and sisters rock!”

Elizabeth and Ana Zuniga, from Gaylord, Minn., waiting patiently to bake their cookies during a workshop with Sister Barbara Simek at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Minnesota.



Mothers and daughters pray at the well at St. Mary of the Pines in Mississippi.



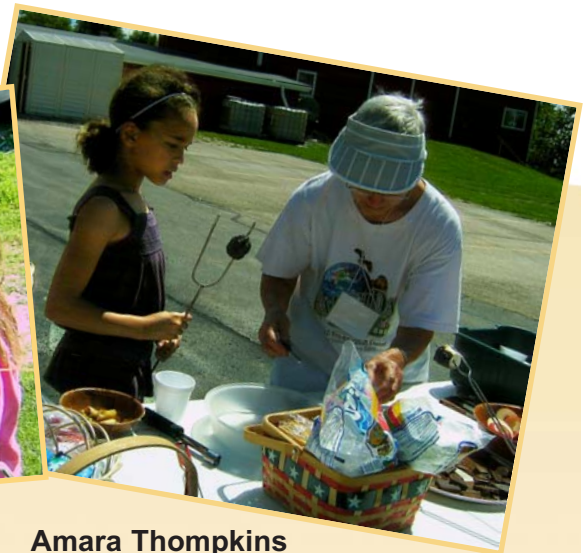
St. Mary's Celebrates 150 years

Students from St. Mary's School in Burlington, Wis., dressed up as School Sisters of Notre Dame during a celebration of their school. St. Mary's opened 150 years ago with three School Sisters of Notre Dame as the teachers. There were 110 children, who were divided into two classes. At the time, school was held for 11 months of the year. This continued until after the Civil War. Today, the school has 353 students in kindergarten through eighth grades.

Care for Earth



Sister Mary Beck explains how garlic grows to Grace DeBruin, Amber Ryan, Collin Ryan, Grace Thomas, Eliza Rabe and Emma Thelen.



Amara Thompkins prepares a marshmallow for a s'more with the help of Sister Mary Beck.

A visit to a farm run by School Sisters of Notre Dame means a lot more than learning about crops and livestock!

Sunseed Eco-Education Center, near Fond du Lac, Wis., is an ecologically-friendly farm. Last summer, 23 students had the opportunity to discover exactly what that means.

The students toured the organic gardens, where they saw natural methods of fertilizing, pest control and watering. They visited the farm's chickens and pigs to learn how their presence enhanced the soil and the food chain.

The children picked ripe asparagus, peas, berries, lettuce, carrots, beans and potatoes. That produce was served as a part of their lunch.

Instead of throwing away their uneaten food, the students put their scraps in animals' feed buckets. This prompted one visitor to whisper, "Boy, they don't waste anything away around here!"

The day continued with a run through the four-acre prairie. With magnifying lenses and kaleidoscopes, they studied bug life in the grass. The program ended with a bonfire and s'mores.

Meet My Sister Aunt

Josh & Sister Stephanie

Josh Heimkes and his aunt share a love of coloring and hiding Easter eggs, riding roller coasters and the Harry Potter and The Chronicles of Narnia movies and books.

Josh's aunt is Sister Stephanie Spandl, SSND. She is a social worker who assists refugees fleeing war and starting a new life in the United States. By spending time with Josh and his family, Sister Stephanie can share her values about helping others.

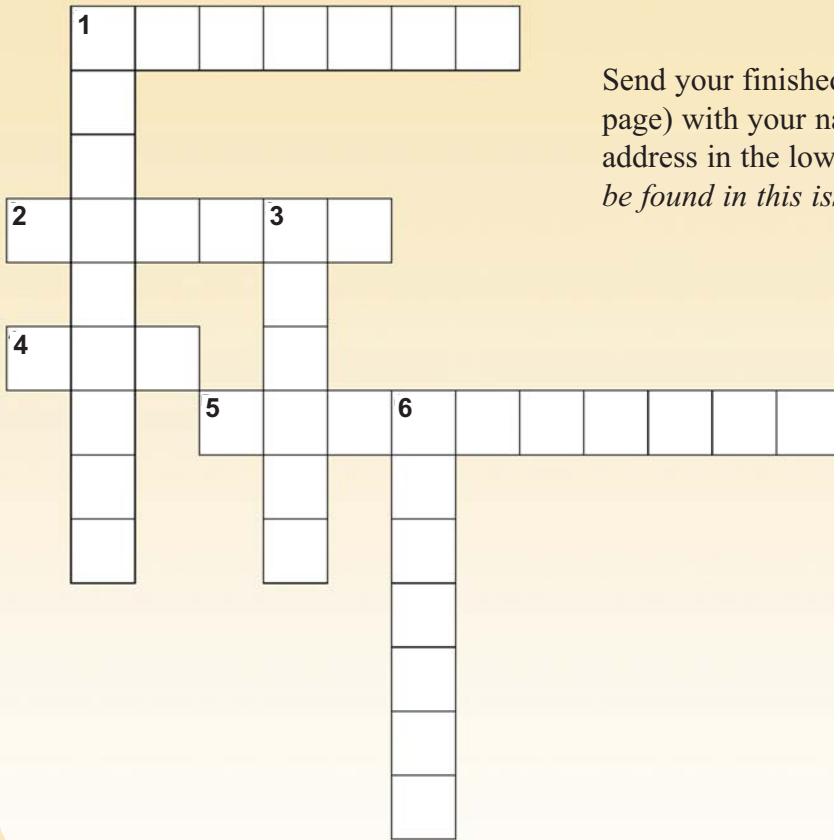
Josh, 11, is a sixth grader at Rosemount Middle School in Minnesota. Josh competes on a swim team and also likes hunting, baseball and playing drums and piano.



Star Criss Cross Contest

Win a prize!

Send your finished puzzles (or a copy if you want to save the page) with your name, grade, school and address to us at the address in the lower right corner of this page. *All clues can be found in this issue of the **Star**, so read carefully!*



Across

- 1. Farm
- 2. Summer fun
- 4. OTC performance
- 5. Catholic contest

Down

- 1. Sister Aunt
- 3. 150-year-old school
- 6. SSND foundress



School Sisters
of Notre Dame

TRANSFORMING THE WORLD
THROUGH EDUCATION

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Rapping in Africa

Children from the Orthopaedic Training Centre (OTC) in Ghana gave a rap performance for 700 attendees during the center's 50th Jubilee Celebration this past summer. The OTC, where Sister Elizabeth Newman, SSND, is co-director, provides rehabilitation for children and adults who are physically challenged.

