

# Stewardship: A Disciple's Response

## Ministry Spotlight: Children's Liturgy of the World

Children don't always understand the big words and big concepts in the Bible so that's why St. Sebastian's Children's Liturgy of the Word is such a treasured ministry.

"We basically 'break open' the readings so they make sense for children," said Carolyn Humston, coordinator of religious education.

"For example, if we are talking about the parable of the lost sheep, we might ask the kids if they remember the feeling of being lost from their mother in a store and how their mother is like Jesus in the way she searches for her lost sheep," she said.

Two groups of children – those in kindergarten through second grade and those in third through fifth grade – leave Mass for about 15 minutes for his ministry. Adults are needed to lead the lessons using materials provided to them.

The Children's Liturgy will be offered during the 9 a.m. Mass and, if there are enough adult volunteers, it will also be offered at the 11 a.m. Mass too. Like catechists, adults in this ministry will be asked to take basic certification classes through the Cleveland Diocese. If you are interested in joining this ministry, call Carolyn at 330-836-2233.

## Faith in Action: Ken and Peggy Contrera

Ken and Peggy Contrera have been involved with the Children's Liturgy of the Word ministry for about 15 years.

"We began when my oldest son, Tom, was in first grade and my motivation was to help him better understand the Word each Sunday. It didn't seem like the message was hitting home."

Peggy believes young children learn much more effectively when information is presented in simple language and using a hands-on, creative manner. For example, she and Ken recently explained a Gospel message

about how a rich man could enter the kingdom of God (Mark 10:17-30) by discussing the common meaning of the word "rich" versus the riches valued by God. The children unwrapped coins, revealing letters and then put the scrambled letters together to form the message, "Jesus is our True Treasure."

Ken and Peggy have taught their four children – Tom, Kevin, Jessica and Keith – stewardship by example. Ken is a long-time soccer coach and has served on the parish finance committee for seven years, recently becoming the committee's chairman.

Peggy has twice served on the board of the Sanctuary Society and uses her background as a nurse to coach the "Science of Fitness" challenge for the school's Science Olympiad team. This year, she will be helping the students learn about human anatomy. A nurse anesthetist at the Cleveland Clinic, Peggy said she feels like she performs a type of "ministry" at work each day as she comforts and calms patients before they undergo heart and lung surgery.

The Contreras are gratified to see their children follow in their footsteps by undertaking volunteer and leadership positions at schools and in the community.

### Thoughts on Stewardship

"Heaven and earth will pass away but my words will not pass away."

Mark 13:31

These ministry profiles are being brought to you by the St. Sebastian Stewardship Committee. Would you like to share the story of your ministry? Contact David Tschantz at 330-864-0646 or [dtschant@neo.rr.com](mailto:dtschant@neo.rr.com), or Holly Pupino at 330-665-2248 or [spupino@neo.rr.com](mailto:spupino@neo.rr.com).