

December 2002

«CASAddSal»

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Dear «CASAddSal»«AddSal»,

Enter to Learn ... Leave to Serve. A living motto.

You've heard me say it before. I don't believe in coincidences.

So ... a couple of weeks ago, I asked our new principal, Rudy Schulze, why we were shifting *to* Christian Service Learning *from* our traditional Community Service Program. Right now, every Christian Brothers' student has 25 hours of required community service. They tutor at Oak Ridge, at Immaculate Conception, and at St. Hope Academy. They make breakfasts at Wellspring once a week. They work at Loaves and Fishes. "How does Christian Service Learning work?" I asked.

Rudy explained that the students still do community service – Oak Ridge, Immaculate Conception, Wellspring and the rest of it, but that it is tied into their classes and school learning experiences. Service Learning includes an important reflection component which helps students to connect service and faith. He gave a couple of examples. We have a Spanish class where every student is a pen pal with a student who attends a very poor school in Mexico. Students in one Spanish class are translating children's books into Spanish for distribution at Ronald McDonald House to Spanish-speaking children who are seriously ill.

We were involved in a Thanksgiving Food Drive. All of the science classes in our new Science, Math and Technology Wing spent a week studying food – caloric intake, protein values, relative thermal values and other such scientific things. The goal? The students determined scientifically what foods are most nutritious and then went out and asked others to donate those kinds of foods for the needy.

Enter Leah Newton, our new Director of Christian Service Learning. A day after I talked to Rudy, Leah came up to see me. It seems we had a group of young women on campus who wanted to start a sorority. I asked Leah what that meant. Her reply: "They want to get together and do *girl stuff*. You know, shop at the mall, that kind of thing."

Leah is a very sharp and dedicated young woman. She met with these students, talked with them, and told them she'd help them. This new sorority at Christian Brothers High School, these young women who wanted "to do girl stuff" now regularly go to the Primrose Alzheimer's Center and do makeovers on elderly women. Makeup, nail polish, lipstick, hair-dos ... and companionship.

The girls will be sewing heart-shaped pillows and giving them to women who have recently had mastectomies so they can prop themselves up after surgery. A number of the Delta Nu girls are walking in the Susan G. Komen "Walk for the Cure" breast cancer fundraiser. The Delta Nu Sorority at CB has been steadily gaining membership as more and more girls join so they can help others. *Girl stuff* at its best!

"... the students still do community service, but it is tied into their classes and school learning experiences." One day, I asked Rudy how Christian Service Learning differed from what we're doing. The next day, Leah Newton showed me. Coincidence? I don't think so.

God bless,

Mark L. Warren
President

P.S. The Delta Nu girls went to Prinrose last week and sang Christmas carols to the residents.