

## Living Water of Christ Shared With Others this Lenten Season

By: Sandy Baldwin, African Mission Trip Guide and current CHS/JXXII parent

*"I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink...."*

Matthew 25:35

Cathedral and John XXIII students focused on providing living water to others during Lent. Students were educated on the lack of clean water in our world in presentations given by me, former CHS Campus Minister. Students learned that a donation of \$10 could provide a lifetime of clean water for one person. The presentations included images of the water conditions in our partner diocese in Homa Bay, Kenya.

Students took part in the H2O project, a grassroots organization dedicated to drilling wells to provide clean water. In an action of solidarity, the students gave up all beverages except water for two weeks, they prayed for others who don't have clean water, and they donated the funds they would have spent on beverages to the project. The students also helped spread the word of the need for wells in Third World countries.

A well, which costs \$3,000-\$5,000, will provide clean water for an entire village! The students' small trickle of enthusiasm developed into a stream of donations for the project. Yvonne and Jim Sexton (CHS grads '53 & '50 respectively) of St. Cloud read about the project and offered to match all donations to the project. Emily Hughes, a CHS '94 alumni living in Portland, Oregon, learned of the project, shared the information with friends at work, and participated in the project.

Students from CHS, on a mission trip to Tanzania, witnessed first hand the poor water conditions which their new friends suffer with daily. Shauna Varner '08 stated, "I felt guilty drinking our bottled water, while the Tanzanians pointed to the dirty water in the lake which they used for cooking, drinking, and bathing in".

CHS students donated over \$3,000, while youth throughout the diocese, having heard of the project have contributed an additional \$1,000. St. Peter's Parish added over \$1000 and St. Hedwic's Parish donated over \$7000. Alumni of CHS have contributed over \$8,500, bringing the total amount donated to the H2O Project to over \$20,000. The Sexton Foundation's matching donation will bring the H2O project fund to over \$40,000. The funds will be distributed between the Diocese of Homa Bay and the Tanzania Life Project. What a remarkable outcome from an initial Lenten sacrifice!

Mother Teresa said, "If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other." CHS and John XXIII students in solidarity with our African friends have formed friendships which are a step toward world peace.