

## Nativity Catholic School: Ministries of Each Grade

As an extension of our religious instruction at Nativity Catholic School, students are invited to minister to others and therefore to live the faith they have learned in their religion classes. It is our hope that in the course of their years at Nativity, the children will develop an ongoing personal commitment to some of these ministries based on their experiences of stewardship here at school.

There are many ways we minister as an entire school community such as food drives, toy drives, Operation Rice Bowl, collections for victims of natural disasters, outreach to the homebound, and gift boxes for the children of La Victoria.

In addition, each grade level has adopted its own ministry:

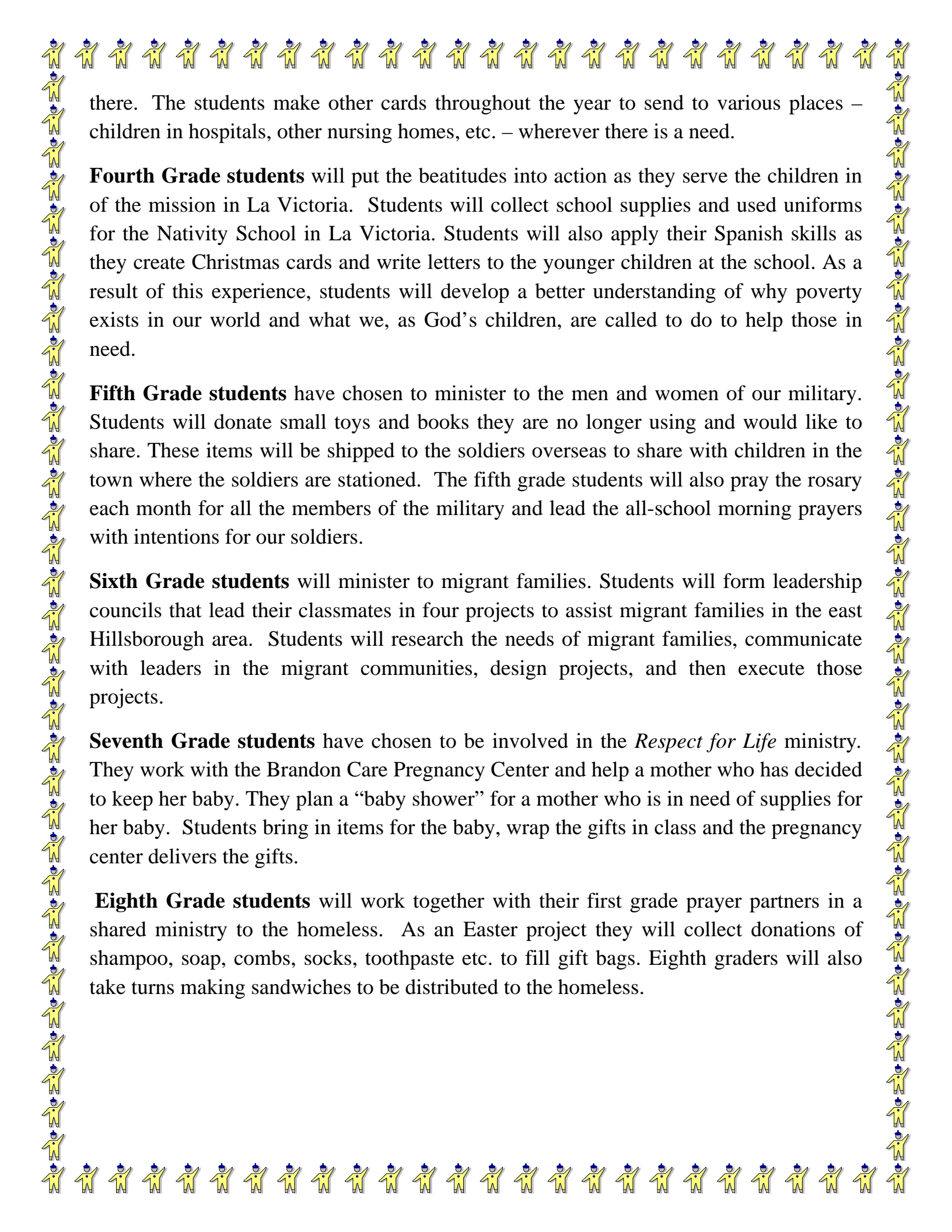
**Our Three-Year-Old and Four-Year-Old students** collect new and used brown grocery bags to be used for the Food Pantry distribution. The children decorate the bags from time to time to send some cheer. They also pray for those who use our Food Pantry in their daily intentions.

**Kindergarten students** run a Lenten Shoe Collection for the people of the San Jose Mission in Dover. They collect new or nearly new shoes of all sizes. They also collect shoe polish and shoelaces to freshen up donated used shoes before bringing them to the Mission. The Kindergarten has already taken about 300 pairs of shoes to the children of the Mission!

**First Grade students** minister to the homeless in our community. With the help of eighth grade prayer partners they make sandwiches to be distributed to those in need. They collect needed toiletries which can also be delivered to the homeless.

**Second Grade students** organize and run a school wide Lemonade Stand to collect money to help fund Autism research. Several students and teachers in the school have relatives affected by autism and this project was suggested by a former student whose brother has autism. The Lemonade Stand raised \$1503 last year for this cause! Second grade also helps with the making of sandwiches for the homeless during Lent.

**Third Grade students** have chosen a ministry of Evangelization. They would like to spread God's love through cheerful thoughts. They make Valentine cards with their own spiritual messages to send to an area nursing home. Then also make cards for a military troop in Iraq. One student's father is going to distribute the cards to his troops



there. The students make other cards throughout the year to send to various places – children in hospitals, other nursing homes, etc. – wherever there is a need.

**Fourth Grade students** will put the beatitudes into action as they serve the children in of the mission in La Victoria. Students will collect school supplies and used uniforms for the Nativity School in La Victoria. Students will also apply their Spanish skills as they create Christmas cards and write letters to the younger children at the school. As a result of this experience, students will develop a better understanding of why poverty exists in our world and what we, as God’s children, are called to do to help those in need.

**Fifth Grade students** have chosen to minister to the men and women of our military. Students will donate small toys and books they are no longer using and would like to share. These items will be shipped to the soldiers overseas to share with children in the town where the soldiers are stationed. The fifth grade students will also pray the rosary each month for all the members of the military and lead the all-school morning prayers with intentions for our soldiers.

**Sixth Grade students** will minister to migrant families. Students will form leadership councils that lead their classmates in four projects to assist migrant families in the east Hillsborough area. Students will research the needs of migrant families, communicate with leaders in the migrant communities, design projects, and then execute those projects.

**Seventh Grade students** have chosen to be involved in the *Respect for Life* ministry. They work with the Brandon Care Pregnancy Center and help a mother who has decided to keep her baby. They plan a “baby shower” for a mother who is in need of supplies for her baby. Students bring in items for the baby, wrap the gifts in class and the pregnancy center delivers the gifts.

**Eighth Grade students** will work together with their first grade prayer partners in a shared ministry to the homeless. As an Easter project they will collect donations of shampoo, soap, combs, socks, toothpaste etc. to fill gift bags. Eighth graders will also take turns making sandwiches to be distributed to the homeless.