

## CHURCH Service Project

Holy Rosary Council 13579

Muskegon, MI

Michael L. Lewis – Grand Knight

2008

#### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



## STATE COUNCIL SERVICE PROGRAM AWARDS ENTRY FORM

THIS REPORTING FORM MUST BE COMPLETED BY EACH COUNCIL AND FORWARDED TO THE STATE COUNCIL.

(A SEPARATE REPORTING FORM SHOULD BE COMPLETED FOR EACH PROGRAM CATEGORY.)

CATEGORY (MARK ONE):	CHURCH	☐ FAMILY	
	COMMUNITY	YOUTH	
	COUNCIL		
100.00	1		5
FROM: GRAND KNIGHT:	chael L. Lewis	_ TELEPHONE N	IUMBER: (231) 780 -808
COUNCIL NAME	oly Rosaly		NUMBER: 13579
LOCATION: Mus			Constraints district restriction
	(TOWN OR CITY)		(STATE OR PROVINCE)
Project Title: The	Living Ro	5914"	
Date Project Conducted:	the second secon		?
Purpose of Activity: (In the space p			
worlde a mo	re meaning	ful and	religious
expression of	r .	427	
and staff at	Muskegon	Cathalic	Central
Elementary	School.		
Number of council members	participating in proje	et:	
Percentage of council member	rs participating in pro	oject:	2010
Number of man hours expend	led in project:		105
Chairman's Name:	el L. Lewis	Telephone Nu	mber: (23) 780-8086
Mailing Address: 1349	Meadowview	11. Musker	ON, MI 49441

(continued on reverse)

MAIL ORIGINAL TO: State Deputy, State Program Director COPY TO: Council File

STSP 1/04

Describe project in detail. Use additional paper if necessary. Supplementary material may submitted along with the nomination. Accompanying materials can include letters, testimorals, news clippings, photographs, pamphlets, etc. Do not submit tapes, video-cassettes, displematerials, films, etc., as they will not be considered in judging the nomination.				
The Project Descript Project Planning & I & Budget.	ion can be found in the following sections: mplementation and Service Project Plan			
ATTEST:(State Deputy)	Signed: Machael Lowis			

DO NOT SUBMIT THIS REPORT FORM TO SUPREME COUNCIL

ENTRY MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE STATE COUNCIL
TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE COMPETITION

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# PROJECT PLANNING & IMPLAMENTATION

#### PROJECT PLANNING AND IMPLAMENTATION

One of our missions, as the Holy Rosary Council, is to help spread the beauty of the holy rosary in our catholic faith. Through our Rosary Committee, we make and distribute rosaries in our four urban parishes, to new candidates, those receiving their sacraments and to graduating elementary school students. We also sell and repair rosaries at council and parish functions.

One of our goals was to do something special with the rosary at the MCC Elementary School. With this goal in mind, I was constantly on the lookout for a way to accomplish this. Our District Deputy, Thomas Ketchum, directed me to look at a very special presentation while attending the Knights of Columbus State Convention, on Mackinac Island. This special event was on the lower grounds of the Grand Hotel. It was the "Living Rosary" presented by the Color Guard of the Fourth Degree Knights.

I was very impressed by its simplicity and beauty. I tried to think of a way that this beautiful spectacle could be adapted for the children back home. As a retired schoolteacher, I used my past experiences to integrate the idea of the convention's "Living Rosary" into one that would be useful and enjoyable to the children at school.

The idea of a very large rosary might intrigue them and help them pray better and maybe help them be more devout in their praying. I know that the more senses my former students used, in learning the subject matter, the easier it was to learn it. With the help of a 100-foot long rosary, and all 130 students and teachers sitting around it, I knew that they would experience the rosary in a whole new manner. At this time, it was easy for me to picture a very large rosary and how it was to be built.

I presented this idea first to our Rosary Committee and then to our council. With their backing, we started on the project. Starting with a 100 foot long blue cord and using the experience of constructing our smaller rosaries, I knew we had to measure, mark and place 59 gold painted tennis balls evenly around the cord to form the rosary. There was also a gold painted wooden center piece and a large, 5 feet by 3 feet, wooden cross.

Working with one of the third grade teacher, Mrs. Katie Welch and the school secretary, Mrs. Pat Stacy, the "Living Rosary" prayer service was organized and brought to life. Each class, grades one through four, were assigned to a certain decade of the rosary, with students rotated monthly as the "Hail Mary" beads and their teachers as the "Our Father" beads. The "bead kids" and teachers would stand when their prayer was said, repeating the prayers until the rosary was completed. The Principle and the teachers took turns leading the different mysteries and the prayer service.

The students seemed to really enjoy the "Living Rosary." I have asked them to write their thoughts about their experience saying the rosary this way. I have included their essays in this project. Each week, we have also had a number of parents and visitors who have come to also enjoy the "Living Rosary." In November, the Muskegon Chronicle newspaper printed a wonderful article on the "Living Rosary." This article is also included. Sister Mary Ann Thue, who films and broadcasts prayer services and religious discussions on a local T.V. station, is planning on attending our April rosary service. She will be filming our "Living Rosary" and telecasting it to the whole Muskegon community. Our council is very happy that the school has invited us back each month until the end of the school year in June.

We hope that we will be invited back again next year to say the "Living Rosary" with these school children. We also would like to become more involved with the middle and high school students at MCC and to also use the "Living Rosary" at more community events.



# GRAND KNIGHT'S INTRODUCTION

#### **GRAND KNIGHT'S INTRODUCTION**

We, as members of the Holy Rosary Council, are very proud of the name we have chosen to represent our council. We are even more aware of the significance of what it represents. Thus, we are always exploring different ways to utilize the symbol of our namesake, the rosary, and try to use it in the service to our local parishes, our community, our families and, especially in this service project, in service to our youth.

My wife, Kathy, and I, are both retired schoolteachers and have spent much of our lives looking for ways to inspire our students to learn and to help prepare them for richer and more fuller life's. As the Grand Knight of the Holy Rosary Council #13579, I wanted to make sure that some of the practices and experiences of our former profession would be implemented in this project. One of the tools that have been fundamental for us has been that of prayer, and the holy rosary is an integral part of it. With this in mind, and using the tools for teaching, it seemed almost inevitable that this project would evolve.

From the inspiration of the "Living Rosary" we witnessed at the annual convention, it seemed obvious that the active participation by those involved transformed the rosary into a more personal and meaningful prayer. We chose to apply this beautiful and religious inspiration to advance our Muskegon Catholic students in their prayerful service to God.

This rosary had to be special. It had to be big, like the island's "Living Rosary." It also had to inspire the children toward a more meaningful prayer. Young children are in awe of the number 100. This is a huge number. So we thought a 100 feet long rosary would do all this and maybe more. The

children are a big part of the rosary. They are called "bead kids" and stand by their "Hail Mary" beads. Teachers are a part of the rosary too, and they stand at the "Our Father" beads. Thus, our "Living Rosary" came to life.

Through the comments of the students, teachers and parents, we believe the "Living Rosary" has made a positive change in the way each student prays, understands and enjoys the recitation of the rosary. Should this project be deemed worthy of a place among the best projects, it would be an added reward. Our council has already been rewarded with the satisfaction of being a part in helping our Catholic children toward a more meaningful prayer life...as one student said, "you helped us be closer to God."

Michael L. Lewis Grand Knight Holy Rosary Council #13579



# SERVICE PROJECT PLAN & BUDGET

#### SERVICE PROJECT PLAN & BUDGET

#### PROJECT PLAN AND SUPPLIES:

- Provide a large rosary for the students at Muskegon Catholic Central Elementary School, for their monthly praying of the rosary.
- Equipment necessary to construct a very large rosary:
  - o 100 feet long cord for the chain.
  - o 50 tennis balls for the beads.
  - o 8 foot long 2x4 board for the cross.
  - o 14" x 12" wooden board for the centerpiece.
  - o Plastic Tote for storing and transporting Rosary.
  - Misc. supplies: Spray paint, bronze nameplate, metal attachments and assorted religious items.
- Poster board display for activity pictures.
- Take and develop of color photographs.
- Service Project presentation supplies.

#### PROJECT COSTS:

-	Rosary Supplies	\$70.00
-	Plastic Tote	10.00
0.0	Poster Board	7.00
-	Picture Development/Ink	25.00
-	<b>Three Ring Notebooks</b>	7.00
-	Clear Page Covers	5.00
-	Tab Dividers	3.00_
	<b>Total Costs:</b>	\$127.00



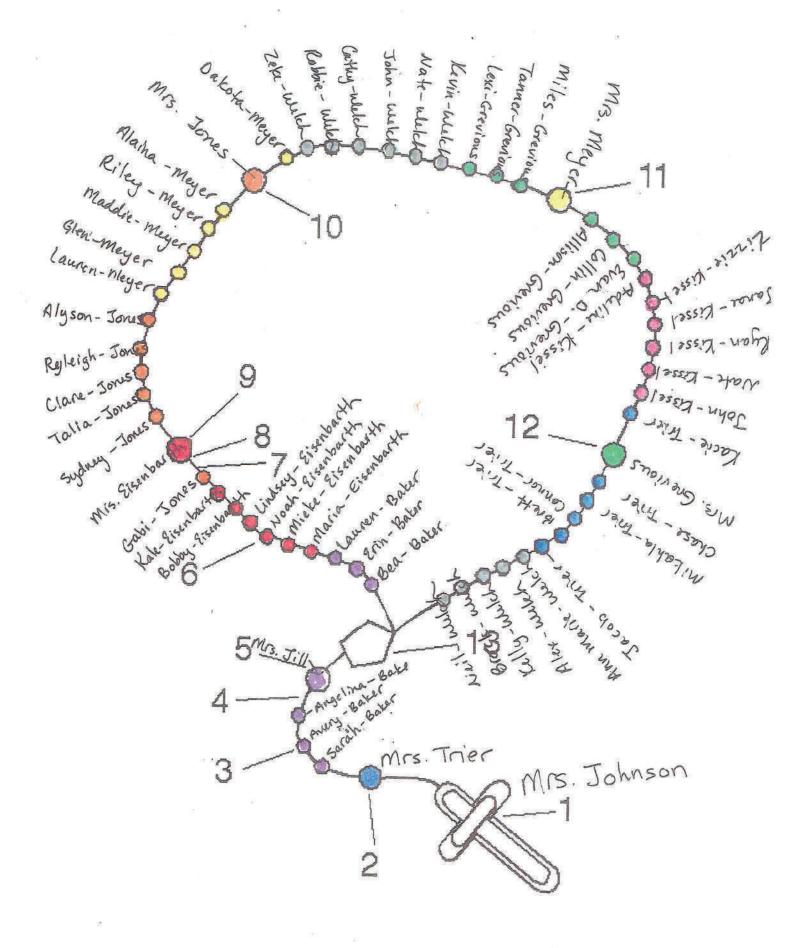
## CALENDAR

#### "LIVING ROSARY" CALENDAR

OCT. 12	"Living Rosary" completed
OCT. 13	Displayed and Used at the "America Meets Fatima" Community Event
OCT. 29	First time at MCC Elem. School
NOV. 11	"Living Rosary" at Deanery Festival at MCC
NOV. 26	MCC Elementary School
DEC. 17	MCC Elementary School
JAN. 28	MCC Elementary School
FEB. 25	MCC Elementary School
FEB. 25-29	"Living Rosary" Picture Poster Display for Catholic Schools Week
MAR. 17	MCC Elementary School
APR. 28	Sr. Mary Ann Thue to film the "Living Rosary" at MCC Elementary School
MAY 19	MCC Elementary School (End of School Year)



## PLANNING THE PRAYER SERVICE



#### Plan for Rosary:

Mrs. Welch will go to Wilma Hall and do the following preparations prior to the Rosary:

- -tape children's names to floor by bead. Names have been printed on sheet that contains coordinating teacher's name.
- -Chairs at each teacher bead and teacher names on chairs

Mrs. Johnson to stand at Apostle's Creed cross

Mrs Welch and Miss Kissel will not stand at an Our Father bead.
(Mrs. Welch will tell kids when to stand, and Miss Kissel will lead the decades.)

#### DIRECTIONS FOR SMOOTH SEATING ©

- 1. Have "bead kids" at the front of your line, and (I'll show them to their spot.
- 2. The teacher should find her chair and have her students sit behind her facing the rosary.
- 3. When we come to your bead, you only stand for your prayer, and then sit down.

We've never done this before. If you have any suggestions for the future, can see a potential crisis, or have any questions, please let me know now!

Really, I think it's going to be quite nice.

-Katie



## NEWS ARTICLES

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2007 MUSKEGON CHRONICLE



# Living Rosary



Eight-yearold Connor ylat recites he Rosary for Peace day during ing rosary n the lawn Muskegon lic Central lementary School.

ronicle photos Kendra Stanley-Mills

#### **Project gives Catholic** recitation new meaning

By Clayton Hardiman chardiman@muskegonchronicle.com

t was perfect weather for outdoor prayer, with bright, sunny skies, tolerable autumn temperatures and rosary beads the size of tennis balls.

In fact, truth be told, the rosary beads actually were tennis balls - each one attached to a rosary about 100 feet in length and accompanied by an elementary school pupil, who rose to stand to signify a prayer.

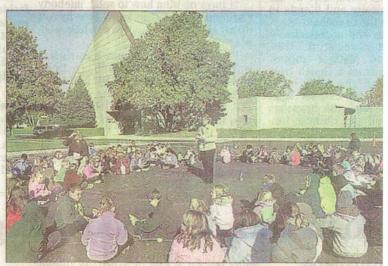
The rosary came to life Monday at Muskegon Catholic Elementary School in Norton Shores.

In the center of the school's parking lot, next door to the majestic sweep of St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church, a group of adults joined the gathering of children in a recitation of the rosary of peace, with beads for each prayer. In much the same way an individual might use the beads of a rosary to proceed through a devotion, this prayer used beads on the living rosary.

A living rosary is more than just a dramatization of the popular devotion. It is a way to more profoundly involve participants in prayer.

A child sat at each bead, and, cued by an alert teacher, stood in turn as the devotion came around to his or her bead.

Beneath the chanting of the prayers, there were only the sounds of passing traffic out on McCracken Avenue and the wind in the trees From one nassing



At top: Richard Eller and John Stoner of the Knights of Columbus Holy Rosary Council No. 13579 help with the living rosary project. Above: The 100-foot-long living rosary is used as a "visual learning experience" for the students at Muskegon Catholic Central Elementary.

Oct. 13 by the Knights of Columbus in downtown Muskegon's Hackley Park to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the 1917 miracle of Our Lady of Fatima, in which the Virgin Mary is believed to have appeared to three children in a village in Portugal.

For the children's living rosary this week, Lewis bought rope and attached the tennis balls as beads. One member of the rosary committee made a cross to





#### ► ROSARY from 9A

the weather conditions, they couldn't resist conducting the devotion outdoors.

"It's a good day," Lewis said. "The good Lord really

blessed us.'

While the rosary is often associated with the Roman Catholic Church, it is sometimes used by other Christian denominations, including the Anglican Communion, the Old Catholic Church and the Lutheran Church.

"It may seem kind of monotonous saying some-thing over and over, but the theory is that the prayers iel, marketing director for that is awesome."

Muskegon Catholic Schools.

When she prays, Daniel said, she finds herself entering deep into reflection and sometimes visiting other topies of prayer.

Lewis said he and others designed the rosary to provide a way for the children to be more deeply and meaningfully involved in the devo-

"What has happened is the kids become a part of the rosary," Lewis said.

As the devotion ended,

Lewis said, he overheard provide an opportunity for some of the children who reflection," said Cindy Dan- walked by commenting, "Oh,



## **Knight Life Newsletter**



IN SERVICE TO ONE ... IN SERVICE TO ALL The Voice of the Membership of Council #13579

#### Vol 4 Issue 5 November 2007

#### Holy Rosary Council #13579 150 E Summit Ave VISITING KNIGHTS ARE WELCOME Muskegon Heights, Michigan 49444

Business meetings are the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 7: 00 PM

Knight of Columbus Supreme website: <a href="www.kofc.org">www.kofc.org</a> Hennepin Province website: <a href="www.hennepin.org/index.html">www.hennepin.org/index.html</a>

Michigan State Knights of Columbus website: <a href="https://www.mikofc.org">www.mikofc.org</a>
Michigan District # 2 4th Degree web site: <a href="https://www.kofcmidist2.org">www.kofcmidist2.org</a>

	Fr. Thomas Brown
Grand Knight	Michael L Lewis 231-780-8086
Deputy Grand Knight	Garret A. Kelenske
Chancellor	John J. Gappa
	Joseph A. Zagar
Recorder	Wayne J. La Pointe
Warden	Mickey L. Lewis
	Roger L. Routt
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3rd year Trustee	J F Harris
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Insurance Field Agent	
Supreme Council Insurance Joe I	
District Deputy Thomas F I	



#### \*From the Grand Knight\*

Dear Brothers of the Holy Rosary Council,

October was another busy month. I am continually amazed at the dedication of you and your families, to our parishes and programs. The awards on our wall are a testament to the commitments our council has made. I really believe that our council is in existence because of our promises to God to serve Him and to serve the community.

The St, Jean's Annual Chicken Dinner is not an official council activity, but without the help of you and your families, the dinner wouldn't be the success that it is. The Trier family manned the grill to cook the delicious chickens, Gerry & Mary Fethke organized the ticket sales and Larry & Peggy Bogner ran the three monthly 50/50 raffles. With Kathy's organizational skills, we ran the kitchen and brought the whole dinner together as chairpersons of this community-building event, I can say with pride that there were (18) Brother Knights working the annual dinner, a couple of which were from Council # 706.

During the weekend of October 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>, there were two very important events. First, our Rosary Community used, for the first time, our new "Living Rosary." This is a large rosary made with a 100 ft. long cord, using tennis balls as beads and a 5'x 3' wooden cross. We were very pleased to have been a part of the Fatima Public Square Rosary, sponsored by Council # 706. There were over 150 devout Catholics in attendance, to celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup>

Anniversary of the Blessed Mother's visit to Fatima. Our next event for the "Living Rosary" will be with the MCC Elementary School students when they recite their monthly rosary.

Second, we held our annual MI / Tootsie Roll Drive and Membership Drive. Our Deputy Grand Knight and Programs Director, Garret Kelenske, organized these events. This year we expanded our locations to include (2) Wesco Gas Stations and The Station Grill, in addition to our (4) parishes. Garret stated that, "I'm very proud that 44% of our membership participated in this year's drive." We collected a total of \$1,400.00 this year. This is more than a 50% increase over last year. Special Olympics Area # 21 will again, be the recipient, of the money raised this year.

During November, our council has (2) major events. On the November 10<sup>th</sup>, we have an important fundraiser, the Younkers Community Day. Last year this event brought in almost \$600 to our council. I hope that we can do better this year, but we need everyone in the council to do his part. Please take (5) coupon books to sell and, if you can, help us sell other books at Younkers. Call me if you can be of help.

November 11th, we will be a part of the Deanery Festival at MCC High School. Again this year, we will have rosaries and an information table. This is a very good event for exposing our Holy Rosary council to the local Catholic community and for expanding our rosary mission. Let me know if you want to be a part of this wonderful event. Yours In Christ,

Mike Lewis Grand Knight

#### \*PICTURES FROM OUR PROJECTS\*



On October 13th as a part of the anniversary of the appearance of Mary to the children of Fatima, members of the Knights of Columbus, their families and members of our Catholic community utilized the "Living Rosary" to pray the rosary as a living example of their faith.



The rosary donated by the Holy Rosary Council # 13579 is laid out in preparation for the prayer service.



GK Dick Perri, of Council # 705, lead the Fatima Prayer service. The life size scale rosary serves as a poignant symbol for the day's events.



Brian Cerner mans the Knights informational table as a part of our "Membership Blitz" during the St. Jean's Annual Chicken Dinner.

Gerry Fethke mans the ticket table for the St. Jean's Chicken Dinner (Right)





DGK Garrett Kelenske helps cook chicken at the St. Jean's Chicken Dinner (Left)



Mickey & Ghen Lewis get ready to plate food for the Annual Chicken Dinner.

#### Knight Life Newsletter Council #13579 December 2007

special he is to us and to show our support and concern. Your involvement will make it even more special (and more successful).

We are hoping to collect new ornaments, lights, garland and decorations to be donated to the Crosswait family and are asking all Knights of Columbus members in the Muskegon area to help. Your donations maybe dropped off at Council # 706 Hall. Thank you for your generosity and help.

Judy Granstrom
Program Director
Prison / Jail Ministry
Diocese of Grand Rapids
Pastoral Services Division—Fostering Catholic Identity.
Engaging Pastoral Leadership, Transforming Lives and
Communities

#### \*PICTURES FROM OUR PROJECTS\*



Students at MCC Elementary School get ready to participate in a "Living Rosary" along with members of the Holy Rosary Council # 13579 and teachers.



(Right) Head bowed and eyes closed, this student recites a "Hail Mary"







Those students not taking the role of leading the a prayer encircle the "Living Rosary" and say their prayers

(Right)
GK Mike Lewis takes a moment to promote the "Living Rosary" as one of the Youth Programs offered by the Holy Rosary Council #13579 during the Muskegon Deanery Festival.





DD Thomas Ketchum, DGK Garrett Kelenske, Trustee JF Harris and new member Scott Houghtaling man the information table during the Muskegon Deanery Festival



The Crusader Spirit

## The Crusader Spirit is the Greater Muskegon Catholic Schools Publication – Winter, 2008

Page 2

## "And Mary said, 'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior." Luke 1:46-47





Students at Muskegon Catholic Central Elementary School gathered outside for their first experience with the Living Rosary, a 100-foot rosary designed by members of the local Knights of Columbus. In addition to sharing daily morning prayer and weekly Masses, elementary students pray the Living Rosary together once a month. The first rosary was offered for world peace, and subsequent dedications will be chosen by each class.

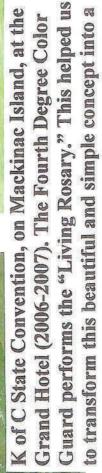
#### PARENT TESTIMONIAL: Michael Muskovin

"Thank you so very much for making the Living Rosary available to MCCE. My son is in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and loves it. I found it difficult to get him excited about the rosary before your visits and now he joins me each night in praying it.



## PROJECT PICTURES



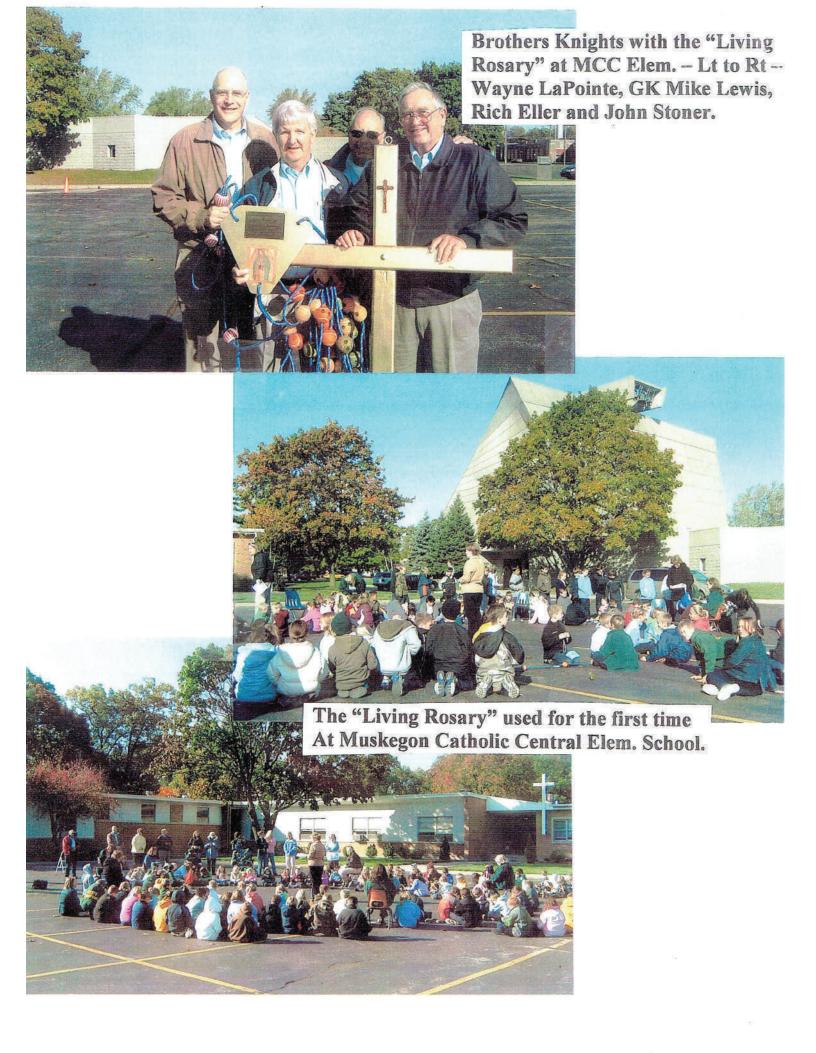




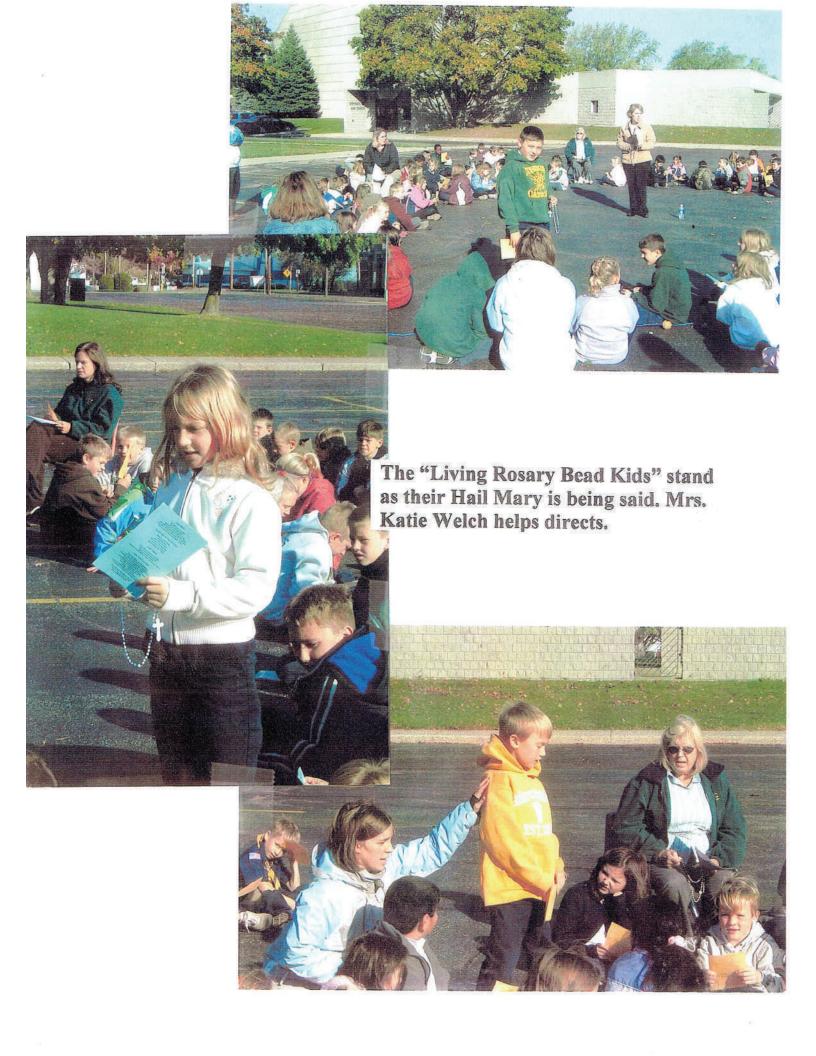




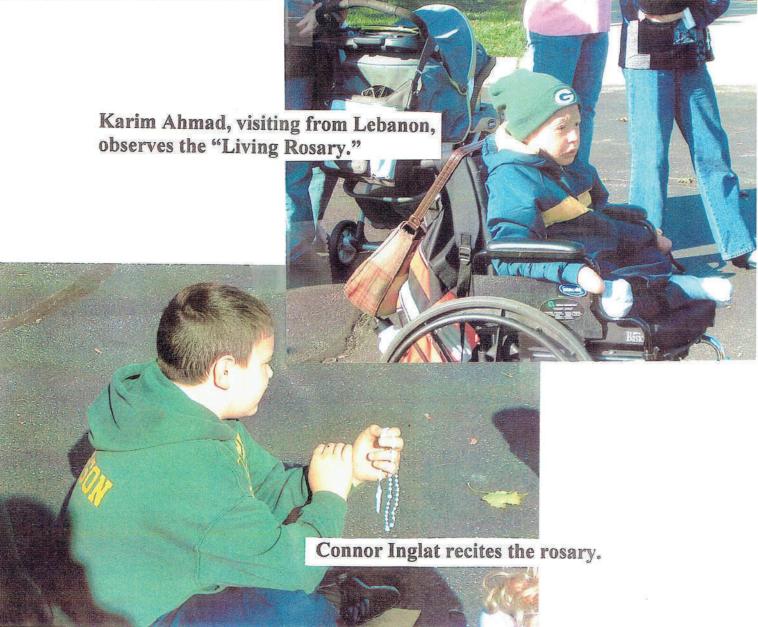


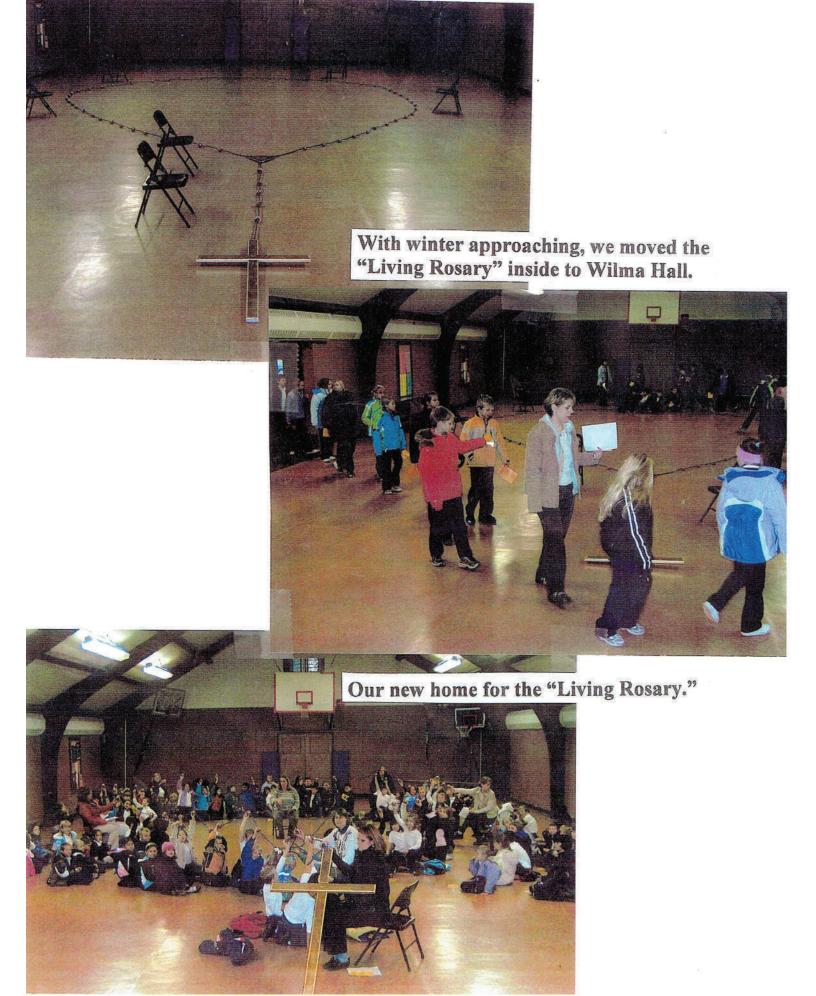






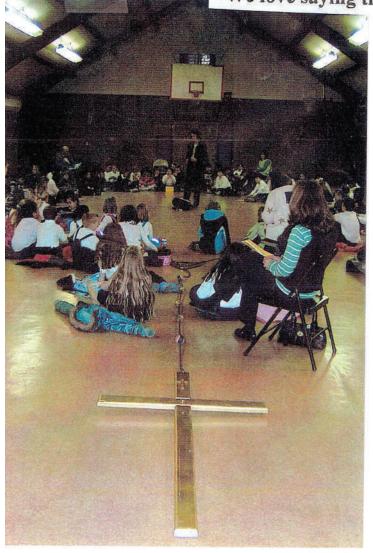


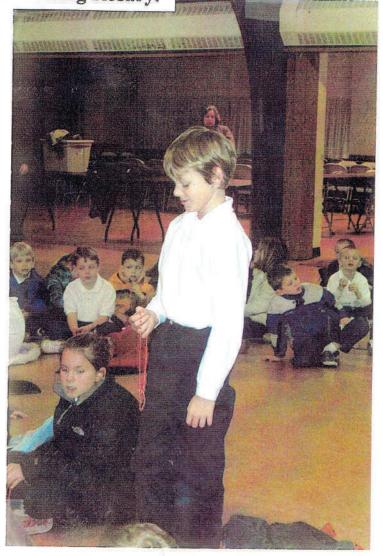




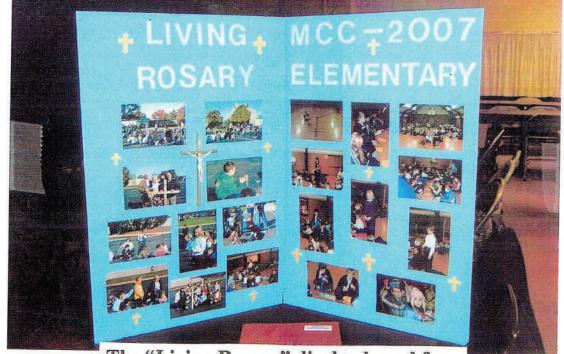












The "Living Rosary" display board for Catholic Schools Week.

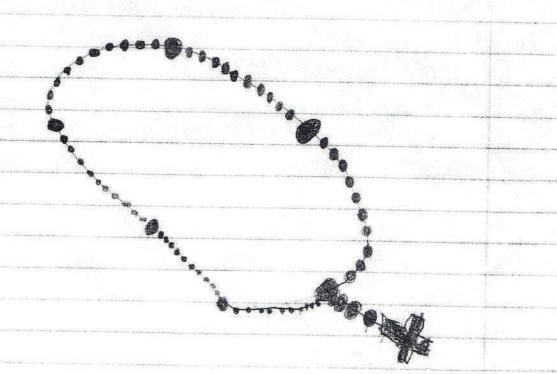




# STUDENTS' LETTERS

I love the Living Rosary. Here are some reasons why. First of all it is sweet to get altogether to say the Living Rosary. It is so much easier to know where I am at with people standing up. I can understand more with the bigger rosary. The small rosary is hard to say with everyone. The Living rosary is giant! People should really appreciate what the Knights of Columbus did. I just adore The Living Rosary

I appreciate that you bring the Living Rosary for these reasons. First, I winterstand the crosary better since we have been saying it at school. The prayers have more meaning for me now Next, I enjoy the rosary because it is huge. It helps me by showing me where we are on the heads Lastly, it is special to be a bead in the rosary. I really feel like I am a part of the rosary. Thank you for making a rosary we can all share.



I Illoooverell the Living Rosary so I want to do it more often. To begin with, I love how we get together as a shoool. I think it is very joyful to be together. Secondly, I love how the kid's stand up is much easier to follow along when they stand up Lastly, I love how it is so gigantic. I mean ! o those are the reasons

Withst nama andimal us be

#### Why I Like the Living Rosary

There are so many reasons why I admire the living rosary, so I'll only say a few. One part about the rosary is that it is a lot easier to follow along because a person is standing up when we're at their bead. Another thing that I like about the hundred foot long rosary is that you get to participate in the praying, and I want to help out all the time. One more thing that makes me care is that I know so many people made that rosary, and put their time into helping our school get closer to God. Thank you so much for making me really pray with the rosary.

By: Catherine M. Daniel

Knights of Columbus From Maria Miranda March 13, 2008

I love the Living Rosary and here are a few reasons why. I think kids like it because it is fun. Kids think saying the normal rosary is boring. I enjoy standing at a prayer, as I am comfortable in front of people. Finally, I feel very open hearted after saying a rosary. I really appreciate that you take the time to set up the rosary. Thank you and God bless you!

Chase

March 13, 2008

Writing

These are the reasons I love the Living Rosary. First of all, I love it because it's so HUMONGO! It helps to keep track where we are. Secondly I enjoy it because it's really fun. When I'm using the little beads I kind of get bored. Finally, I enjoy it because we get to stand up. It helps me know where are. Last year I didn't know where we were. That's why I love the living Rosary.

Nate March 13, 2008 Writing

I like the living Rosary because you learn new prayers you don't say allot .Like, "Hail Holy Queen". You get to particapate. No one can stop you from praying. Someone else leads it every time. Like once one teacher read and the next time someone else read. I enjoy saying the Living Rosary.