

Stewardship: A Disciple's Response

Ministry Spotlight: HASA

A new school year presents a fresh start for every child, a chance to excel in the classroom, in sports and extra-curricular activities, and to grow in his or her faith.

One way to show your support for the students and teachers of St. Sebastian School is to get involved in the St. Sebastian Home and School Association (HASA).

"Through our many activities, HASA is a way to reinforce and complement the school's efforts and, basically, enhance the whole Catholic education experience," said Norma Horwitz, HASA president.

There are many ways to get involved, from chairing and serving on committees to simply saving Acme grocery receipts and package box tops to help the school raise funds.

Each May, HASA sponsors a walk-a-thon that raises funds for the school. An Easter candy sale and Entertainment books, which will be soon on sale, are other fundraisers.

"The money from these fundraising projects has allowed us to install a sound system in each classroom," said Horwitz. "The teachers love this because it enables students to hear the teachers talk no matter where they sit. So far, we've equipped each classroom from kindergarten through sixth grade and we are now focusing on the older grades."

Parents are also needed to help with such activities as the Santa Shop, the yearbook, the monthly HASA newsletter and teacher appreciation meals.

There is a small fee to join HASA and all members are encouraged to attend the general meetings, held the second Wednesday of September, November, January, March and May at 7 p.m. These

meetings usually feature teachers or other speakers. For example, last year, parents attending the meetings learned about the various software programs their children use at school and the achievement tests their children were taking.

On intervening months, the HASA meetings are routine business meetings, but they are also open to all members.

Membership benefits include the monthly newsletter and a membership directory. Parents of preschool students are also invited and encouraged to join HASA.

"Getting involved in HASA is a great way to get to know the families that make up our school, especially the families that don't have a child in the same grade level as your own children," said Horwitz. "I know I have gotten more out of my involvement than I've put into it over the years."

For more information about HASA, call Norma Horwitz at 330-869-6830 or e-mail her at n_f_horwitz@hotmail.com.

Mark Your Calendar ...

The first general meeting of HASA for this school year is Sept. 13 at 7 p.m. in Zwisler Hall.

A Disciple's Response

"Consider this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully...for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Cor 9:6-7)