

Stewardship: A Disciple's Response

Ministry Spotlight: Rankin Tutoring Program

It doesn't take much more than a love of children to get involved in tutoring at Rankin Technology School, which is located near the parish at 415 Storer Ave.

For about 10 years, a dedicated group of St. Sebastian parishioners have been tutoring kindergarten through 5th graders at Rankin during the school year.

"You can volunteer as much time as you wish," said Mary Loraditch, the program coordinator. "I volunteer two days a week for two hours."

According to Loraditch, tutors will be assigned to one classroom and will work one-on-one with students who need extra help in reading and/or math from approximately October to May.

"You don't need to have any background in education other than maybe the experience you had working with your own children," she said. "The school provides all the learning materials."

Loraditch has found the work greatly satisfying. One year, she began working with a boy in second grade who could not read. But, he gave up part of his lunch break several times a week to work with Loraditch. By the end of the school year, he was reading.

"When the kids see you in the halls, they come running up to you with arms open," she said. "I've run into children who remember me from years earlier."

If you would like to get involved in this ministry, contact Loraditch at 330-836-0886.



Faith in Action: Mary Loraditch

Mary Loraditch grew up in the rural Ohio community of Landeck. The hard work ethic associated with working on a family farm and the Catholic values instilled by her parents are the basis of her childhood memories.

"We kids would ride our bikes four miles each day to sing at Mass," she said. "Every night at 9 p.m., the whole family did the Rosary together."

Mary and her husband, Andy, moved to Akron and the St. Sebastian Parish in 1972. Their nine children attended St. Sebastian and Akron Public Schools, such as Rankin Elementary, Perkins Middle School and Buchtel High.

In addition to coordinating the Rankin Tutoring Program, Mary taught PSR for 29 years and has served as a Eucharistic Minister for nearly 15 years.

"Everyone is given a talent that should be shared with others," she said. "I believe mine is my ability to work with children. Children keep you young and are so fun and unpredictable. On many occasions, I have said a prayer, 'Lord, give me the patience I need as a teacher,' and that was just what I needed to get through the lesson."

A Disciple's Response

"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace."
(Peter 4:10)