

September 15, 2023



The kids are going back to Catholic school this week, thanks be to God. It appears that up to 35 children will be attending Catholic school in Bryan, at St. Joseph Catholic School, thanks to **Our Kids at Heart** and your donations. Now we have 20 children in Temple in our program from the least advantaged families, and more are still being registered in Austin and Waco, all thanks to your support. We expect to have 250 or more children enrolled this fall across the Diocese as the most disadvantaged families discover the benefits to their children.

These kids are outperforming their public-school counterparts in every way. As reported in the press, many of the children in public schools have fallen behind in reading, learning, math, and socializing. We will be paying the social costs for years for allowing our public schools to decline so dramatically.

We need your help to get these kids back in school this coming semester. Without your help, we can't do this.

Recall that I call these children "**Pentecost Bombs.**" They come home from Catholic schools and change their families. One of our high school students told us that their home life before Catholic school was toxic and dysfunctional. She was depressed, living in a toxic environment. Then she began Catholic school. Her parents were required to attend Mass every week with their children. The kids wanted to pray with their parents. The girl now reports there is a new peace in their family, and she knows why and is grateful. Our program is saving marriages and families with prayer and sacraments.

This past week, Sacred Heart Parish in Austin sent 40 people to World Youth Day. Many were either Catholic school students or recent graduates. We know WYD builds strong Catholics for life, including vocations.

This school year will be different for me as I will spend more time promoting **Our Kids at Heart**. Since retiring as pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, I will have more time to dedicate to building up Our Kids at Heart, seeking more parishes and families to send their children to Catholic schools. This is such a great opportunity.

Please continue to help us. We are building up families, the parishes and the Church with your donations and the help of God. Please send your prayers and support to **Our Kids at Heart**.

Thank you and God bless you.

FR MARK

Fr. Mark Hamlet

