

**For Immediate Release**

**Contact: Nancy Collins (409) 924-4300**

**Catholic school students will remember those who helped after Hurricane Ike during Catholic Schools Week**

Catholic students will be using Catholic Schools Week, Jan. 25-31, to remember some very special benefactors. Students at a Catholic school in Minnesota will be remembered Jan. 27 by Catholic school students in Orange. All the Catholic Schools in the diocese will be thanking the Burkitt Foundation and National Catholic Educational Association during a special Mass Jan. 28. Throughout the week, every Catholic School in the Diocese of Beaumont will be celebrating Catholic Schools Week with different activities from ice cream parties to open houses.

A 4 ½ foot crucifix recently donated by St. Mary Catholic School, Alexandria, Minn., will be unveiled to the students of St. Mary, Orange, for the first time Tues. Jan. 27. Following Hurricane Ike, the students at St. Mary, Alexandria, adopted St. Mary Catholic School, Orange, as their social service project. In addition to the crucifix, the school has donated clothes, toiletries and prayer shawls. Dr. Frances Droddy, St. Mary, Orange, principal, said that the “gorgeous crucifix” will be mounted in the school’s foyer.

A day later, hundreds of Catholic students representing all six schools throughout the Diocese of Beaumont will fill St. Anthony Cathedral Basilica, Beaumont, as Bishop Curtis Guillory, SVD, celebrates the Rainbow Mass Jan. 28 at 10 a.m. The Mass will be dedicated to the Burkitt Foundation and the NCEA.

The Burkitt Foundation and the NCEA have both stepped up to help since Hurricane Ike. All six Catholic schools in the diocese will benefit from a grant by the Burkitt Foundation as well as a donation from the NCEA. The donation by the NCEA was made possible by Catholic schools from dioceses across the nation.

The theme this year is Catholic Schools Celebrate Service, and all six schools invite the public to celebrate service by visiting during an open house from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Jan. 29.

Other events will include:

- All grandparents and families are welcomed at St. Mary Catholic School, Orange, Jan. 30 for Grandparents' Day and a program consisting of a presentation of *The Hungry Caterpillar*, a slide presentation and recognition of volunteers.
- Our Mother of Mercy Catholic School students will have tea with Father Henry Davis Jan. 27 and rosary of thanksgiving Jan. 30.
- St. Anne Catholic School eighth-grade students will share a special lunch with the kindergarten students Jan. 26 and the fifth-grade students will enjoy a special lunch Jan. 29 to celebrate Father William Manger's birthday.
- Students at St. Anthony Cathedral Basilica School will enjoy ice cream sundaes at lunch Jan. 27 and will have a spirit day Jan. 30 with clean-up the campus activities.
- St. Catherine of Siena Catholic School will have Priests' Appreciation Day Jan. 27. Priests will come to eat lunch with children from their parishes. At 8:30 a.m. Jan. 30 Bishop Guillory will celebrate Mass with the students.
- Monsignor Kelly Catholic School will have a special luncheon for its teachers Jan. 26 and a prayer service at 12:50 Jan. 29 in honor of the parents and guardians who sacrifice to make Catholic Education possible for their children.

Monsignor Kelly Catholic School  
5950 Kelly Drive, Beaumont  
(409) 866-2351  
[www.kelly.beaumont.tx.us](http://www.kelly.beaumont.tx.us)

St. Anthony Cathedral Basilica School  
850 Forsythe, Beaumont  
(409) 832-3486  
[www.stanthonycathedralschool.org](http://www.stanthonycathedralschool.org)

Our Mother of Mercy Catholic School  
3360 Sarah Street, Beaumont  
(409) 842-5534  
[www.josephite.com/parish/tx/omm](http://www.josephite.com/parish/tx/omm)

St. Catherine of Siena Catholic School  
3840 Woodrow Drive, Port Arthur  
(409) 962-3011  
[www.stcats.org](http://www.stcats.org)

St. Anne Catholic School  
375 N. 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Beaumont  
(409) 832-5939  
[www.stannecatholic.org](http://www.stannecatholic.org)

St. Mary Catholic School  
2600 Bob Hall Road, Orange  
(409) 883-8913  
[www.stmaryschooltx.org](http://www.stmaryschooltx.org)