



April 2011

Go Green!

with the Sisters of Divine Providence

Earth Day Supplement



"The protection of Earth's vitality, diversity, and beauty is a sacred trust." –The Earth Charter

A New Way of Recycling

When Sister Paulette, a Spiritan Sister from Africa, visited her friend Fr. Tom Schaeffer at La Roche College sometime ago and mentioned to him that she'd like to visit a local grade school, it was only natural that he would bring her to Providence Heights Alpha School. Fr. Tom became friends with Sister Paulette when he lived and worked in Africa for nine years.

Upon visiting the school, Sister Paulette remarked how the students in Africa don't even have textbooks from which to study because they can't afford them. In that instant, an idea was born. The Alpha School teachers and students began cleaning out their closets of old textbooks, including math, English, and even U.S. social studies, along with library books and weekly readers. Before they knew it, boxes of packed books were stacked in the hallway, just waiting to be shipped. But how would they ship so many boxes? And how could they do it at a reasonable cost? That's where *Brothers Brother Foundation* (BBF), located in Pittsburgh, joins the picture.

Founded in 1958, the mission of BBF is to promote international health and education through the efficient and effective distribution and provision of donated medical, educational, agricultural, and other resources. All BBF programs are designed to fulfill its mission by *connecting people's resources with people's needs*. Luke Hingson, president of BBF, gave the 2010 commencement address at La Roche College. Under his leadership, BBF has become one of the most efficient and effective nonprofit organizations in the United States.

Recalling Mr. Hingson's address and the work BBF does, Fr. Tom, on behalf of the Alpha School, approached the organization as a possible resource for distributing the books collected by the school. They were onboard immediately, and agreed to pick up the entire cost for shipping the books to Ghana and other countries in Africa. What a wonderful gift, considering that estimates for shipping such quantities would run upwards of \$15,000.

Included with the books to students in Africa will be pictures and letters from the Alpha School students, asking the students there to write them about their school. At times like this, there are no language barriers, and I'm sure the children will greatly enjoy sharing stories. To date, BBF has sent more than 82,000,000 books over the past 50 years. That's a lot of books, and now the Alpha School can proudly say that they are part of the fabric *connecting people's resources with people's needs*.

To read more about BBF, visit them at www.brothersbrother.org.

Pam Greer
Communications Specialist



Science teacher Bernie Bileck with some of the students who participated in the Books for Africa project

Earth day 2011

Each March, things start turning *green* around Providence Heights—and I don't just mean outdoors!

Preparation for our Earth Day prayer service and the events leading up to it usually begin in January, when the Green Team Committee starts hashing out ideas for how to celebrate Earth Day.

This year, we kicked things off on Friday, March 18, with green ribbon day. The Sisters, employees, Alpha teachers, staff, and students were given green ribbons to wear each day leading up to Earth Day, this year celebrated on April 15, since Earth Day fell on Good Friday. On March 25, we enjoyed the most *scrumptious* green mint cupcakes for dessert in the dining room, courtesy of SAGE; bookmarks were handed out on April 1; green pencils with the tag line *Go Green with the Sisters of Divine Providence* were given out, along with note pads, on April 8 (pencils were also sent to Kingston and St. Louis); and on April 15, we celebrated our Earth Day prayer service in St. Anne's Park, followed by a parade of eco-friendly costumed Alpha students in grades K–2.

The week of April 11, *Prayers for the Earth* were read over the PA system at 9:30 each morning, and the lucky winner of our basket of green goodies, including two free admission tickets to Phipps Conservatory, went to Jason Karwoski. Congratulations!

Pam Greer

Photos courtesy of Leslie Goodes, *Creative Goodes*





We Can Do It!



**Make Earth Day
Every Day**

*with the
Sisters of Divine Providence*

Don't forget to recycle! 

Send your Earth-friendly green tips and information to Pam Greer at pgcommspec@aol.com