

Saint Mary Church School, Pawtucket, Walks to Benefit the Poor

Under warm and clear skies 30 Sunday School students from St. Mary, Pawtucket, RI took to the streets prior to attending the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, April 18, 2004 in support of the Food For Hungry People campaign. The children, recognizing this was the 30th anniversary of this worthwhile program, asked to contribute in a unique way.



The children of St. Mary, Pawtucket, RI pause for a break while raising money for the FFHP.

Michael Matook, superintendent of the Sunday School, brainstormed the walk-a-thon idea. He and his staff prepared and distributed pledge kits to each student of the Sunday School. During the Lenten period, the students solicited and collected pledges from family and friends. The path selected by the Sunday School staff took the children past the Pawtucket Police Department, the Slater Mill (birthplace of the Industrial Revolution), through downtown, in front of the church and back to the Parish Center. The weary group did manage to fit in a short break on the banks of the Blackstone River prior to refreshing themselves and attending Liturgy. At the end of Liturgy, Fr. Isaac brought all the children to the front of the church and blessed them for their benevolent work. Each went home with an icon of Jesus.



The school children walk along High St. in Pawtucket, RI to raise money for FFHP.



Mackenzie Matook and Mary Kilsey pause at the site of Slater Mill on the Blackstone River.

Food For Hungry People has always been well supported by the parishioners of our parish. This year indeed it was made special. Not only did the Walk-a-thon raise an additional \$1500 for the campaign, the children became very connected to those who need our assistance. St. John Chrysostom teaches that the greatest of virtues is giving to the poor; our students experienced this through the solicitation and collection of pledge monies.