


Bonnie Trafelet/Courier-Journal
Wayne Gaskin, a second grader at St. Theodore's School, lights an Advent candle.

Schools' outreach efforts touch local, Latin-American children

By Richard A. Kiley

The commercialization of Christmas and the emphasis on gift giving among families can make it difficult for today's children to understand that there are those in dire need during the holiday season.

Two diocesan schools, however, are doing their part touching people far beyond the boundaries of Rochester this Christmas.

A baby shower for Jesus on Monday, Dec. 21, at St. Theodore's Parish in Rochester not only targeted local needs, but those abroad as well.

For the third consecutive year, children in the primary and intermediate grades extended a helpful hand to the Crisis Pregnancy Center in Rochester, but for the first time ever they broadened their assistance by giving to a mission in Brazil.

According to Sister Elaine Englert, SSJ, principal of the school on Spencerport Road

in Rochester, the theme of this year's baby shower for Jesus was "Learning to Give Rather Than to Receive." Primary students have been gathering baby clothes and food since the beginning of Advent and will send them to a Brazilian mission run by Sister Barbara Orczyk, SSJ.

Crib sheets and diapers as well as clothing and blankets will also be sent to the Crisis Pregnancy Center, one of seven agencies the Gates school has decided to help this Christmas.

Spurred by the parish social ministry committee, junior high students also collected toys for needy children and young adolescents in Rochester. "Each grade level has always picked an agency to help out," said Debra Pollitica, who teaches second grade at St. Theodore's. "They learn more than when they just ex-

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Primary- and intermediate-age students placed gifts they contributed to the Crisis Pregnancy Center and a Brazilian mission on the altar.

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