

## **SHMS Students, The Sisters, Stewardship**

LOUISVILLE, Ky (April 16, 2009) - The library at the Ursuline Motherhouse was packed on Thursday, April 16, with third graders from Sacred Heart Middle School. Each one was there to meet with a Sister. It's part of a stewardship program begun by parent Robin Armstrong after she saw how well a similar program worked at St. Patrick's.

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"Most of these students never knew the Sisters or have a chance to interact with them," Robin said. "This program allows them to know the Sisters and learn from them. Every few months, we reassign the children to a new Sister so they can get to know more of them. But, the students became so attached they didn't want to change; now they love their new partners too."

The program has a different focus for each grade level at the Model School. For the third graders, it's involvement and activities with the elderly. The Ursuline Sisters share their wealth of knowledge with the students, partnering with three each time. Sometimes the Sisters are given a topic to cover, such as the rosary, and other times they are encouraged to come up with their own activities and lessons for the students.

Some of those activities have included tours of the Motherhouse, lunch with the Sisters, bible study, and even card games. Sisters Judith Rice and Dolores Hudson spoke with the children before the program began about the religious life of an Ursuline Sister, telling the students stories and explaining the challenges of the aging. As for the Sisters, they seem to have as much if not more fun than the students.

"I enjoy my kids," said Sister Millie Mae Rueff. "The first group was mostly boys and they were such a joy. We drew Noah's Arc one day and drew the animals. They loved that. I had a great time getting to know my three boys."

Right now, about 20 Ursuline Sisters regularly take part in the meetings with the students. Armstrong said she hopes to expand the program next year and involve even more students and Sisters. It's an idea many of the Sisters already taking part seem to like.

"I just love the little children," said Mary Margaret, watching Gracie, Caroline, and Elizabeth, with the smile still on her face. "They bring so much joy."