

The Highlands School Seventh Grade Boys Religion class are learning to love and understand the sacrifice of the Mass in depth. Since this is the year of the priest whose hands are consecrated to celebrate Mass, the boys prayed for them all year long, all the priests, especially the Holy Father and Bishop Farrell as well as their Parish priests and the Legionary Priests at THS.

The students said the prayer "The Beautiful Hands of a Priest" before each class since it "walks" them through the importance of not only celebrating the Mass but receiving all the Sacraments as well. As homework one day, the teacher assigned them to write one or more letters to their parish priest, the Legionary priests at school retired priests, priests who live abroad, young seminarians, Bishops, Cardinals, or the Holy Father to let them know how much they appreciate their generosity in saying "yes" to Christ when they accepted their vocation to the priesthood.

All the students wrote and mailed letters, some a few, others wrote many that were greatly appreciated by the recipients. Some of them have already answered the boy's letters expressing their joy and appreciation that a "kid" in Texas is actually thinking of him and praying for his vocation.

One student, Ty Rosellini started to write letters to many of the names offered by their teacher but he wanted much more. Through the Internet he found the names of Bishops in all 50 states and he kept reaching further and further. As of today he has written over 300 letters and reached beyond our continent in Europe, Asia, the Caribbean Islands, Central and South America. Many of these letters have been answered personally by the recipients, including the Holy Father's secretary and they all showed their surprise as well as gratefulness for these prayers. As of today over 120 of them have answered Ty's letters with prayers, booklets, an explanation of their Diocesan Coat of Arms, their pictures with a prayer in the back and even maps, just in case he can visit them. This regular homework brought awareness in the students in how important it is to pray and thank God for the gift of our priests and how easy it was to give them back a little of what we receive from them.

Bishop Farrell visited The Highlands School and celebrated Mass on Pope Day. The seventh grade boys shared with their project with Bishop Farrell. Bishop Farrell was very pleased to see that many of the names on the Bishop's letters were familiar to him. He warmly congratulated the class for their successful project but especially he congratulated Ty Rosellini for his zealous dedication. The class built beautiful a wooden box and a special album to safeguard this beautiful project.