

YOUTH MINISTRY PUTS STOMACHS TO THE TEST FOR FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

To help impoverished countries control their food supplies, St. Alexander church's youth ministry put their own stomachs to the test.

Twenty-two students from the Fonthill church's youth ministry participated in ThinkFAST last weekend, a 25-hour fast to raise money for the Catholic Organization for

Development and Peace.

Although participating meant they had to stay hungry for more than a full day, the kids knew it was worthwhile because it was going to a worthy cause, said youth ministry coordinator Joseph Brown.

"Right now their (Development and Peace) campaign is for food

sovereignty," Brown said.

In many developing countries, food stocks including corn and wheat are being bought and used for ethanol purposes, instead of feeding the nation's population, said Brown.

This is the third time the St. Alexander Youth Ministry has done a ThinkFAST event. The ministry

has members in Grades 7-12 from Notre Dame, E.L. Crossley and St. Alexander schools.

To raise the money, participants had to collect pledges. Money was also collected for the cause during mass at the church.

To keep the kids going, they participate in activities and games, take

part in a mass and do the Stations of the Cross, Brown said. They also watched the movie "Who Killed the Electric Car?"

Following the fast, the participants are treated to a delicious feast catered by Antipasto's, including appetizers and spaghetti and meatballs.

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"Everybody gets to eat a big meal," Brown said.

He said it's always a treat to see children at the church get involved and raise money for the community.

"You don't see it too often," he said.

Altogether \$1,212 was raised.



The Youth Ministry at St. Alexander Church in Fonthill put their stomachs to the test last weekend when they took part in ThinkFAST, a 25-hour fast to raise funds for Development and Peace. In front, from left, are participants Chantal Christian, Charlotte Butko, Sam McDermott and Sara King. In back, from left, are Paul Ferrara, Adam Saint-Ivony, Jesse Felesko and youth ministry coordinator Joseph Brown.

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