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NEWS

Week of worship

By Kevin Darr
 Saturday, February 3, 2007 2:18 PM CST

Catholic schools in the area once again got a chance to celebrate their roots.

Known as Catholic Schools Week, these seven days serve the purpose of spreading a little recognition towards these private institutions.

This year's CSW started last Sunday and wrapped up Friday, with each day reserved for a separate celebration.

Immaculate Conception Catholic School, the only Catholic school in Columbia, started off with a parish celebration Jan. 28. On Monday, ICS recognized families; Tuesday was for students; Wednesday featured service projects; Thursday looked at ministry; and Friday finished up with a new project called "Pray and Play Together."

Some projects students are involved in throughout the week include writing thank-you letters, performing services around the school like cleaning up the building and recognizing those around the school who play a huge role in the students' success.

New to this year was the aforementioned "Pray and Play Together" day, when 8th grade students taught religion classes.

"We have never done anything like this before where the kids taught religion," ICS principal Mike Kish said. "We have had them teach other things but not religion."

Yet another interesting project ICS created this year occurred Thursday, when all students were required to wear ties.

"We wanted to symbolize how the students are all tied together through baptism," Kish said.

The school also recognized several of the daily Mass attendees who serve behind the scenes as sacristans and Eucharistic Ministers by presenting them with ties.

Kish thinks CSW is important on several different levels.



Immaculate Conception School students enjoy the sounds of Odd Walk during Catholic Schools Week. Ss. Peter & Paul School and Gibault High School, both in Waterloo, also participated in CSW. Terry Smith photo

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"Catholic Schools Week is a time to celebrate who we are, what we do and why we do it," Kish said. "It is a humbling time where you sit back in amazement at all the sacrifice of time, talent and treasure that is poured out to provide a Catholic education for families.

"ICS would like to thank the Columbia community for all its support."

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