

St. Gregory's "Twenty-Third Annual Christmas Shoebox Campaign"

Dear Members of St. Gregory the Great Church:

We are about to begin our Twenty-Third Christmas Shoebox Campaign for Canadian Food For Children. Since we began in 2002 over 14,725 Christmas gifts have been sent first from St. Gregory, then followed by St. Patrick and St. Ambrose who have joined in this wonderful works to provide gifts for Dr. Simone to distribute from their depot in Mississauga. These gifts are then delivered to children in Central America, South America, Africa, the Philippines and other third world countries. So many families have benefited in the past from your generosity. For some this would have been the only Christmas gift they receive.

The empty shoeboxes are at the entrances to the church starting this weekend. They are to be returned the weekends of November 1st and 2nd.

We will be packing them during the days from November 4th—7th at St. Patrick's Church. They will then be transported to Dr. Simone in Mississauga. Within days they will be shipped to a country in need.

If you would like to volunteer to help us sort during November 4th—7th, please call Ann Osmar at 519-267-2035. You can also call Maria at St. Gregory

Here are some ideas for filling the shoeboxes. Games, dolls, new stuffed toys, balls, school/craft supplies, skipping ropes, stickers, marbles, and solar calculators are fun items. Clothing could be shirts, tops, underwear, and socks. Food items such as granola bars, wrapped candy, baby food in plastic jars or foil pouches and baby cereal. Always needed are face cloths, soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, combs, brushes and other toiletries. Please put any strong smelling soap or anything that might leak in a zip-lock bag. Howl-ween candy welcomed.

Please do not include any battery operated toys, games or toys depicting war or violence.

This year: wrapping shoe boxes in Christmas paper is optional, but if you wish to wrap your shoebox it is necessary to wrap the top and bottom separately and close it with an elastic band. This will ensure that if it is inspected by custom officers at a border that the wrapping will not be torn. Please feel free to include a note to the child and even a picture of your family. On the outside of the box please place a tag telling us the gender and the age of the child - infant to 15 years.

Thank you in advance and have an enjoyable time filling your shoebox. May God bless you for sharing with others.

Norbert Oberle and Ann Osmar and in Memory of Mary Oberle