

**Water for a cause**

***Youths abstain from sodas, juice***

**Money saved to drill well in Kenya**

by KATIE MOORE

staff writer

GREENSBORO — Youths at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro drank nothing but water for the past two weeks.

As part of a nationwide service project known as The H2O Challenge, the youths are raising money and awareness for communities that don't have access to clean drinking water.

The challenge was issued by The H2O Project, a Texas-area nonprofit organization dedicated to bringing clean water to people who need it around the world.

Participants are asked to send the funds typically spent on sodas, juices and other drinks to organizations that drill wells in underdeveloped countries.

Focusing on the significance of sacrifice, the middle school-aged youths participated in the project during Lent.

“It was intentionally planned to start the Wednesday before Ash Wednesday to lead into the Lenten experience,” said Susan Rabold, youth minister at St. Paul the Apostle Church.

This is the second time a group from the church has participated in the project. The high school youth group participated in the challenge in October, raising \$960.

“It was so beneficial for them that we decided to have the program with our middle school youths,” said Rabold.

Additionally, the confirmation class at St. Pius X Church in Greensboro will participate in the program during the coming weeks.

“The H2O Project indicates that a well costs about \$2,500,” said Rabold. “I feel that throughout the three programs, we'll meet the goal.”

In addition to the fundraising, the project has an educational aspect.

“We do a program on water and social justice issues,” Rabold said. “Then we explore this particular issue of communities that don't have clean water.”

The youths at St. Paul the Apostle Church are specifically raising money to drill a well in Rubet, Kenya — the home village of Michael Sang, a custodian at the church.

“Through Michael they have this connection,” said Rabold. “He’s very real to the kids.” Sang spoke to the youths about the challenges he faced growing up in a village that didn’t have clean water.

“I grew up in a rural area where we had a lot of problems with water,” Sang said.

“We had to travel three miles to get water,” he said, and even then it was dirty.

When he found out that the youths wanted to raise money to drill a well in his home village, Sang said that it was an answer to his prayers.

“I was overwhelmed and happy,” said Sang, who had been looking for a way to give back to his home village.

“My main focus is for them to get clean water,” he said. “Water is the source of everything.”

*Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore by calling (704) 370-3354, or e-mail [kmmoore@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kmmoore@charlottediocese.org).*