

LIVING OUR FAITH

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PROCLAIMING THE NEW EVANGELIZATION



JERRY NAUMHEIM JR.

Archbishop Robert J. Carlson blessed the inaugural class at Carlson's Kids, a new preschool program at St. James the Greater School in South St. Louis in early September. With the archbishop was teacher Connie Jansen. The archbishop has led a year-long initiative to advance Catholic schools.

Catholic schools are **Alive in Christ**

St. James the Greater School in the Dogtown neighborhood of South St. Louis had a 15 percent jump in enrollment with the addition of its new curriculum-based preschool, Carlson's Kids, named in honor of the archbishop who is a strong supporter of keeping in touch with young parents. "We have about 170 students total, counting Carlson's Kids," said the pastor, Father John Johnson. "The preschool has added a lot of excitement to the school. The preschoolers have lunch with the other students and are on the first floor with the first, second and third grades, so the parents see the rest of the school twice a day when they come and go. They are getting comfortable with the school." The preschool has generated a lot of good feedback, he said.

Father Johnson stressed the importance of the parish school to the parish. "The main ministry of our parish is Catholic education. It's not the only ministry. But it's the main ministry. Our motto is 'to live in Christ.' The school gives the parish energy, purpose, focus. There isn't a day that goes by that I'm not in contact with the principal. I think it's a great thing for evangelization, not just for the students, but also the parents. To bring people back to Jesus. I believe that's what we're here for — 'a little child shall lead them.'"