

## Children's Message

10.19.08

Good morning.

I'm writing thank you notes. I am just a bit behind in my thank-yous, so I thought I'd just keep writing while I'm talking to you.

My mom always taught me that writing thank you notes was really important. And I totally agree. But when I was a kid – I wasn't convinced, especially if the person I had to write to was there when I opened a present. Like my grandparents and my Christmas present from them. I mean they were *right there* when I opened their present and they saw how excited I was about it and I told them thank you right then and there! I just couldn't figure out why I had to sit down and tell them again. Really. What a huge waste of time. But now I get it. Sitting down and writing a thank you makes you even more thankful for that person, and for their gift. And the whole time I am writing to them, I think about them and I think about that person's special gift.

But that's enough about thank you notes.

Let's talk about...hmmm... gosh...we've got a few more minutes. How about this- tell me something great that happened in your life in the past week. couple of weeks. But I get to start. On Wednesday, I was able to listen to our CMAP children sing with the American Boy Choir. The music I heard made my heart fill with gladness. How about you- what great things happened in your life this past week?

Wow- those are some great things, aren't they? Did you write a thank you note for those gifts you received this week? I did. I wrote a thank you note to Mrs. Sliwinski and the music board for all of the hard work they did to make the concert such a success.

But what about all of the other great things that happened this week? Like the fresh apples I bought at Heinen's? What about the beautiful blue sky on Saturday? What about heat that warms my house on those cold nights? What about my eyes that let me see? What about the music that I sing to in my car? Those were all great things that happened this week. I have lots of thank yous to write, don't I? One to Heinen's, one to the gas company, one to the people who make my contact lenses, one to the Jonas Brothers...it goes on and on.

But guess what? I really only need one thank you, if I really think about it. A thank you to God. Thank you God for putting apples on the trees and for giving me a place to buy them. Thank you God for that blue sky on Saturday. Thank you God for giving people the ability to capture energy so my home is warm. Thank you God for my eyes and for the clever people who make contact lenses. Thank you God for giving people the gift to write and play music and for my voice so I can sign along. But you know how I thank God for each of these blessings? I thank God by actually using the gifts that God has given to me. I use my gifts here at my job, I use my gifts by singing in the choir, I use my gifts by raising my children the best that I can, I use my gifts by giving money to this church so we can do all of the things that God wants us to do.

So that's what those envelopes we gave you are for- they are your thank you note to God. Since *everything* we have is a gift from God.

Please join me in a simple prayer.

Thank you God. For Everything. Amen.