



Last Saturday, September 9, 2017, past and present members of the **Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level I, II and III Program at Assumption Church** came together with friends and family to share their love, service and generosity with the **children in Houston affected by Hurricane Harvey**. Our morning began with a brief proclamation of Scripture related to the Sacrament of Baptism, the Parable of the Good Shepherd and Psalm 23. We remembered together how each of us became part of the Family of God at our Baptism when we received the Light of Christ and became Christ's forever. We rejoiced again at the many brothers and sisters we have in the Family of God! We then remembered the **youngest members of the Family of God who were affected by Hurricane Harvey and who are served by the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston**. We wondered together how we might share the Light and Love of Christ with the children in and around Houston, Texas who need support and encouragement. We thought again about the words of the Good Shepherd in John 10:10, **"I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly."** We wondered if part of living an abundant life might be found in the gift of serving others? Hayden, age 5, (Level I) also helped us recall the first verse of our favorite psalm: **"The Lord is my Shepherd, there is nothing I lack."** We remembered the great love of the Good Shepherd and how he always gives us everything we need. The Level I, II and III children thanked God for his many gifts to them of family, new school supplies, and new backpacks. We agreed there is joy in new school supplies and new beginnings. Our discussion then turned to the children in Houston who have lost everything. Perhaps helping the children in Texas is a gift of love the Good Shepherd has given to us today? We carefully examined the basket on the prayer table which contained a backpack and the individual school supplies to be placed in each basket. After naming and discussing each item to be placed in the backpacks, we prayed for the children in and around Texas and their families who were affected by Harvey. The Level II and Level III children also led us all in prayers for the people in Florida affected by Hurricane Irma and the people in Mexico affected by the earthquake. Parents and children then prayerfully filled new backpacks with new school supplies for our brothers and sisters in Christ and worked together to express their love through art, Scripture, prayers or letters of encouragement for the children of Houston which they placed inside the backpacks. **The great love of our Good Shepherd and Assumption families helped us prepare 128 backpacks with school supplies and prayers/letters of encouragement for the children in and around Houston, Texas.** The backpacks and extra school supplies were shipped to the **Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston** on Monday in **30 boxes with great joy!** Please know how very grateful this native Houstonian is to all my Good Shepherd and Assumption Family and Friends for all their compassion, love and service to the children of the Good Shepherd in Houston.

