LEWISTON — God’s heart has a special place for the poor, so much so that he himself “became poor” (2 Cor 8:9). All Saints Catholic School students have found many ways to use the gifts and talents God has blessed them with to serve others, especially those living in poverty.

In January, the students in preschool through first grade learned about poverty and reflected on the realities of hunger and homelessness. They read stories dealing with poverty and realized that they can make a difference. They participated in a food drive and donated the items to the local food bank.

In the spirit of Blessed Mother Theresa, the second grade students are discovering how they can “do small things with great love.” After learning how many children in Belize cannot afford to pay to go to school, the children decided to do something about it. They are having a used book sale, with the proceeds to go toward a scholarship for Belizean students. The used book sale also teaches another way to recycle, multiplying the number of people who can enjoy a book.

Recently the fourth grade students were talking about the many things in their lives they take for granted, especially hygiene items. As a group, they decided to collect travel-size items such as shampoo, conditioner, lotion, toothpaste and toothbrushes. Then, the students created prayer cards that were inserted into baggies along with the hygiene items. The bags were delivered to the local Salvation Army for distribution from its new hygiene center in Lewiston.

God calls each of us to use the gifts and talents he has blessed us with to serve others. When children are involved in activities that serve others, they become aware of others’ needs and take pride in knowing that they are making a difference.