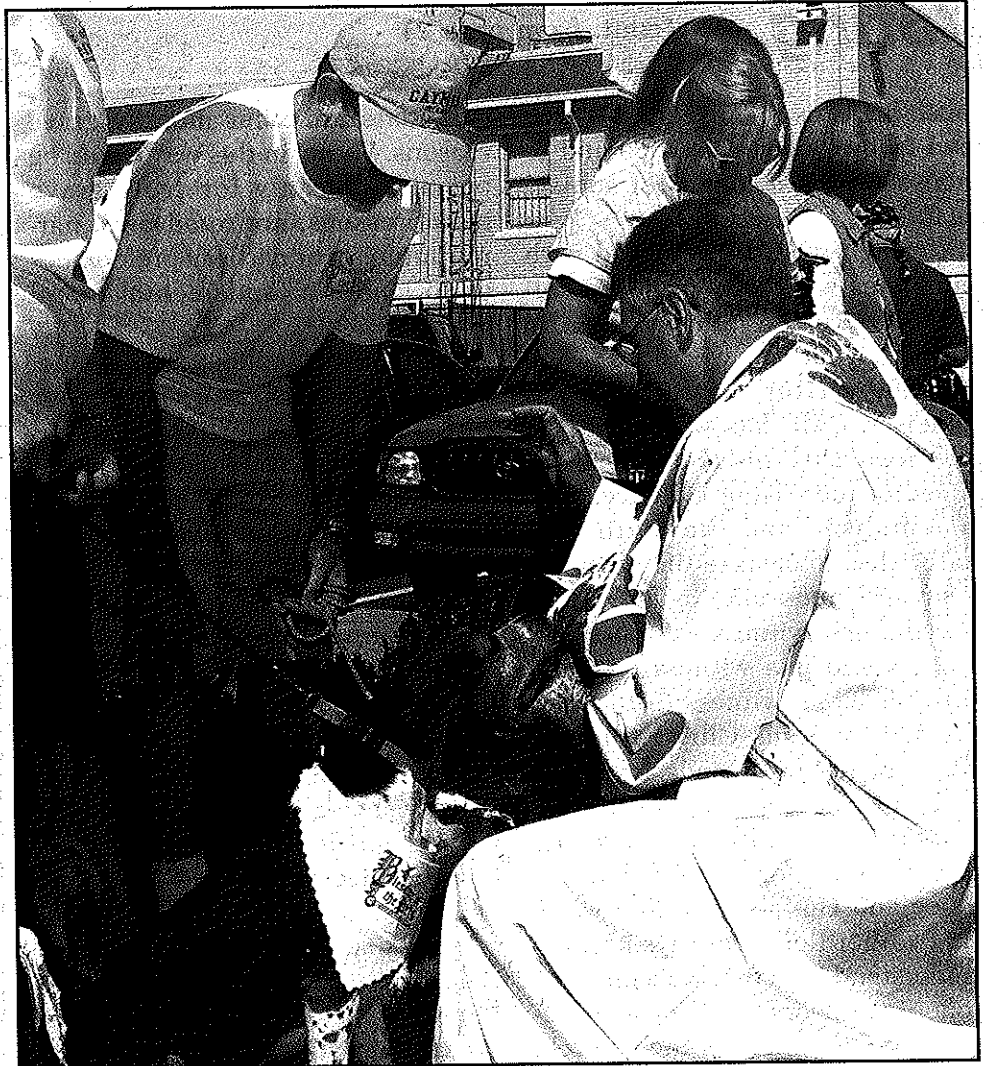


# In the Tradition of St. Francis

By Pam Flynn  
*Managing Editor*

October 16, 2008

On October 4, The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception held its annual Blessing of the Pets and Pet Celebration. The celebration at the Cathedral included games and activities for pets and their owners such as a pet wash, nail clipping, pet photos, presentations by a veterinarian, the Memphis Police K-9 unit, an animal safety expert, and information on animal adoptions. At noon, a procession led nearly 250 animals to the lawn behind the Cathedral for the blessing by Father Val Handwerker, rector, Father Herbert Ene, associate, and Deacons Bill Nourse, Dave Lucchesi, and David Woolley. Each pet and owner received a St. Francis medal for each pet's collar and an individual prayer card.



Father Val Handwerker, rector of the Cathedral, blesses animals at the Annual Blessing of the Pets on October 4.