



REGINA DOMINICAN

THE COLLEGE PREPARATORY CATHOLIC SCHOOL FOR WOMEN

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Regina faculty, staff begin new year reflecting on peace

Faculty and staff members of Regina Dominican kicked off the new school year in a special way on August 18: by reflecting on peace and on how they can make a difference individually and collectively in making Regina a community of peace-makers. The morning of reflection was led by Mr. Doug Gleber, campus minister.

Peace will be a special focus of the 2005-2006 school year at Regina Dominican, as a way to live out the new vision statement of the Adrian Dominican Sisters: "Seek truth. Make peace. Reverence life." Sister Donna Markham, O.P., Prioress, requested that all institutions sponsored by the Adrian Dominicans focus on peace this year. Sister Markham is a 1964 alumna of Regina Dominican.

Mr. Gleber began the reflection by showing a power point presentation on the violence in today's world, from war in the Middle East to starving children and mothers mourning the death of their sons. "At the heart of much of the violence is self-centeredness and impatience," the tendency to put our own needs before those of others, Mr. Gleber noted. "This is the world that our students will inherit, that we have to prepare them to inherit." He encouraged the faculty and staff to do their part to ensure that their students become peace-makers rather than indifferent citizens.

Much of the morning focused on eight principles of non-violence:

Prayerful union with God: By spending at least five minutes each day in quiet prayer, teachers and staff can stay in relationship with God and remember that they depend on God's grace to do their work.

Realistic expectation: "One of the greatest obstacles our students face is unrealistic expectations" that they be perfect, Mr. Gleber noted. He encouraged teachers to take into account the limitations that we all have and to show understanding when students are faced with extra pressure, such as sports or participating in school plays.

Listening generously: If we expect students to listen to us, we need to model good listening to them, Mr. Gleber told the teachers.

Find models and mentors. He encouraged faculty and staff to look among their peers for people who could teach them how to go about their daily work in peace.

Foster personal relationships. Students need to see that faculty and staff members experience "personal, healthy, joyful relationships." Intimate and peaceful relationships with family, friends, and colleagues help to promote a peaceful working environment.

Take inspiration from those who struggle against injustice. While there are internationally known models – such as Martin Luther King, Jr., Mother Teresa and Pope John Paul II – members of the Regina Dominican community are also models of people who strive for justice.

Beauty and gentleness. "The world can be ugly," Mr. Gleber noted, so it is especially important to find "joyful communion" with creation. He urged his colleagues to spend time outdoors, in their favorite experience of nature.

Break new ground. Mr. Gleber encouraged the teachers to see their work at Regina Dominican as ministry, and to find a new approach when necessary to teaching their subjects. When you're in a rut during the school year, find someone



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who can help you out of your rut, new ways to get inspired. "Don't get stale," he advised. "Never let the salt lose its flavor."

Faculty and staff members concluded their morning together by signing a nonviolence pledge based on the eight principles; reflecting on people who made a difference in their lives; and committing themselves to specific ways that they can personally do their part to make Regina Dominican a community of peace.

The theme of peace will continue during Regina Dominican's Back to School Liturgy at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, September 1. Following the Liturgy, the school community will dedicate and plant an eight-foot peace pole in the front yard, as a visible sign to the greater community of their commitment to bring peace into the world. All are welcome to the Liturgy and the dedication ceremony.