



REGINA DOMINICAN

THE COLLEGE PREPARATORY CATHOLIC SCHOOL FOR WOMEN

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Regina celebrates new year with Back to School Liturgy

The Regina Dominican community began the 2005-2006 school year as they begin every day and every project: with prayer. The annual Back to School Liturgy was celebrated in the auditorium on September 1. Father James Barrett, pastor of St. Joan of Arc Parish in Evanston, was the principal celebrant.

The Liturgy began with special greetings. Sister Adrienne Piennette, O.P., President, welcomed the assembly back for another school year, noting that prayer is the best thing that the community does together. Mrs. Kathy Rzany, Principal, pointed out the lessons the students have already learned from watching coverage of Hurricane Katrina: how to survive, how to value what is truly important in life, and how to develop generous hearts. "May this be a great year for all of us, and may it be filled with God's blessings of peace," Mrs. Rzany concluded.

In his reflection, Doug Gleber, campus minister, spoke of growing up in a family of five children and two adults, with the usual discord that arises in a normal, large family. The discord would stop immediately, however, when his mother began to sing a line from a popular hymn, "They'll know we are Christians by our love."

"It's not enough to say we are Christians," Mr. Gleber reminded the assembly. "It's not enough to call ourselves peacemakers." Jesus himself demonstrated the need to act out of love when he washed his disciples' feet the night before he died.

Just as Jesus' action was symbolic of our need to perform loving deeds of service, Mr. Gleber noted, so the Peace Pole to be planted after the Liturgy is a symbol of the school community's commitment to peace. The Peace Pole cannot be an empty sign but must be a "gnawing presence" among the community, spurring them on to do their part to make peace a reality.

"If we accept this challenge, at the very least, our piece of Earth, this patch of Wilmette, will be a better place to live," Mr. Gleber noted. "...At best, we might actually change the world."

A number of students, faculty and staff members took on special roles in the Liturgy. Serving as readers were senior Merlyn Joseph; Ms. Mary Kay Dougherty, theology teacher; and Mrs. Kathy Rzany, principal. Juniors Mary Cooper and Ellen Nicolau were sacristans, while seniors Sara Berrafato and Aura Labatete were gift bearers.

Mr. David Hiett, Music Director, and cantor Martha Cordeniz, a senior, led a group of volunteer choir members and musicians. Serving as Eucharistic ministers were seniors Sara Berrafato, Katie Bott, Samantha Link, and Lauren Strzepek; juniors Mary Cooper and Ellen Nicolau; Mrs. Verna Allworth, English teacher; Sister Martinelle Bonnell, O.S.F., Ph.D., Academic Dean; Sister Barbara Kelley, O.P., Communications; Sister Joan Krajewski, O.P., social studies teacher; and Mrs. Therese Lengerich, science teacher.