



# REGINA DOMINICAN

THE COLLEGE PREPARATORY CATHOLIC SCHOOL FOR WOMEN

(09.08.05)

Peace Pole to remind Regina community of commitment to peace

Regina Dominican has a new family member – a silent but eloquent presence that stands in front of the auditorium on Locust Road and reminds all who pass by about the world's great need for peace.

To begin the school year – a year dedicated to peace – the Regina Dominican community planted this Peace Pole on September 1, proclaiming in eight languages the prayer of their hearts, "May peace prevail on Earth." The brief dedication and planting ceremony took place after the school's annual Back to School Liturgy.

"It is important that we gather here as a visible symbol of people working at making a difference in our world," said Sister Adrienne Piennette, O.P., President, in addressing the students, faculty, staff, and guests assembled around the Peace Pole. "Our school year theme and challenge is to make peace in our hearts, home, local community and, hopefully, the world."

In blessing the Peace Pole, Sister Adrienne prayed that it would be a "source of grace and power, a constant reminder that if we are to be one with You (God), we must sheathe our own swords today, the swords of self-centeredness and gossip, of fear and hatred, of despair and doubt. May it be a reminder to us that if we are to be a peace-filled people, we must treat one another with reverence and respect."

Christopher Canning, President of the Village of Wilmette, expressed his gratitude to Regina Dominican's efforts to bring peace into their local community. Further, he challenged the students, faculty and staff to take the "long view," to take the little steps necessary to bring about world peace. Although we can't do everything, each of us can do something to make a difference in the world, he noted.

Adding to the symbolism of the Peace Pole are the eight languages in which the prayer, "May peace prevail on Earth," is inscribed. Each language – Arabic, Hebrew, Tagalog, Korean, Polish, Gaelic, Spanish and English – is spoken by a student or faculty member of Regina Dominican. As part of the dedication ceremony, a student or faculty member read out the prayer as it is inscribed on the Pole in his or her particular language.

Regina Dominican is one of 200,000 communities in 180 countries that have planted Peace Poles as silent monuments to peace. The World Peace Prayer Society, which has initiated and organized the Peace Pole Project, was founded in Japan in 1955 by Masahisa Goi (1916-1980) in response to the devastation caused by World War II. The non-profit organization is dedicated to spreading the message of peace and to the ultimate transformation of the world.

Peace is also a special focus of the Adrian Dominican Sisters, sponsors of Regina Dominican. In their most recent vision statement, the Adrian Dominicans describe themselves as women who "seek truth, make peace, reverence life."