

From the desk of Rob Costante, Principal...

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“Let us all remember this: one cannot proclaim the Gospel of Jesus without the tangible witness of one's life.”

Pope Francis

The arrival of Pope Francis to the East Coast last week brought great excitement to SFdS. This enthusiasm commenced this past Monday as our parish gathered in solidarity in prayerful anticipation of the Pontiff's visit to our country. The *Holy of Prayer* offered our entire diocese the opportunity to be unified through the gift of prayer. Watching our faculty, our students, their parents and grandparents, along with our broader parish, assembled as a community of faith; was a blessed sight to behold. I would like to thank Michele Harris for her organization of this special prayer event.

As the week continued, the spirit of the Holy Father and his message to “proclaim the Gospel of Jesus as a tangible witness of our lives”, seemed to pervade our campus. In support of the Knights of Columbus *Coats for Kids* project, our students dedicated the proceeds from a “Non-Uniform” day to this worthy cause that will provide winter coats to young children of need in our area.

On Friday, our community concluded its food drive collection in support of the Joseph House Food Pantry. At final count, our students donated nearly 900 non-perishable food items in support of the needy that are served by this local ministry. And as years past, prior to boxing up the collected items, our students engaged in the annual tradition of forming a “can-struction” whose architectural design produced a creative rendering of a Celtic High Cross.

Also included in the joyous blessing of this day was the *2nd Annual SFdS & Pinehurst Field Day*. On this glorious day, the 8th graders served as a special and encouraging friend during each of the planned field day activities. Watching the adaptive physical education students from Pinehurst smile as they completed events like the soccer goal challenge; the balancing egg relay; scooter derby; the bike racing 500; parachute and bounce house activities; brought smiles to all in attendance. I would like to thank Jen Hill, the adaptive PE Teacher at Pinehurst, for her thoughtful support of this day.

Then on Friday afternoon, the 8th grade students traveled down to the SU Campus Ministry House. During their visit to the “House”, the students enjoyed a spiritual retreat that fostered the idea that the face of Jesus exists within the marginalized of our human brotherhood. I would like to thank Nicole Long and her cadre of SU students for their leadership of this retreat event.

And before this magnificent day would end, our 6th, 7th and 8th grade students gathered in the parish center for a “Movie Night” complete with endless bags of popcorn and soda. An entertaining end to a joyous day and a blessed week!