

## *Featured Sponsored Ministry*



**Prayer Intention:** That the members of the Holy Angels Community in collaboration with other local youth organizations may be fruitful in their efforts to raise awareness about the issue of human trafficking and to take steps to prevent human trafficking in our area. This issue takes on special urgency for us because the Super Bowl is being held in our County in February 2014.

**A**lexandra Alfonso, a junior at Academy of the Holy Angels, and Lily Cunniff, a senior, were both awarded an Honorable Mention for their work representing Lebanon in the Disarmament and International Security Committee at last year's Harvard Model United Nations Conference held in Boston, MA. In recognition of their achievement, Alexandra and Lily were invited to apply for a place on the All-American Model United Nation team with College Apprentice, and were later notified of their acceptance onto the team. The team, comprised of students recognized as the best Model UN delegates in the United States, traveled to Beijing, China in the first week of August to compete at the international WE Model United Nations (WEMUN) Conference.

The WEMUN conference was founded in 2008 by WELAND International. It was the very first international Model United Nations conference in China for high school students. With the name "WE", the conference is aimed at uniting young people around the world. WEMUN provides not only professional educational opportunities, but is also a unique forum for communication and cooperation between youth from different backgrounds. The WEMUN expo provides an opportunity for delegates to learn about the international diplomacy and master their skills in public speaking, lobbying, negotiating and paper writing.

At the conference, Lily received the top honor of Best Delegate for her role representing Japan in the Human Rights Council (UNHRC). Alexandra was also awarded Best Delegate for her role representing Kuwait in the UN Development Program (UNDP). The team as a whole took home 8 out of the 13 gavels. They also won the award for Best Large Delegation. Ms. Theresa Young is the Moderator of AHA's Model UN team.



Ms. Theresa Young proudly stands with students Alexandra Alfonso and Lily Cunniff.



Lily Cunniff at the WEMUN expo in Beijing, China.

Summer is a time for sun and fun, but for students at Academy of the Holy Angels in Demarest NJ, it is also a time for service. While many students undertook important service projects independently, others opted to share their gifts by participating in programs arranged by AHA's Campus Ministry and Religious Studies Offices. Student groups traveled to St. Peter the Apostle School in Philadelphia, and to areas of New Jersey hit hard by Hurricane Sandy, where they worked hard, prayed together, and also had some fun along the way.

The trip to Philadelphia offered an opportunity for students to perform service and to learn more about the SSND charism. From July 29th–31st, twelve students, along with Campus Ministers Kathy Sylvester and Maryanne Miloscia, assisted staff at St. Peter's School and the Shrine of St. John Neumann. They worked on various projects to prepare St. Peter's for the upcoming school year. The girls also spent time exploring ways in which the two schools might continue their relationship. They pledged to make this service experience the first of many, noting that it was not only about their service but also about deepening the relationship that was being built. Senior Christina Sivulka reflected on her experiences, "Though we were unable to see the fruits of our labor, we learned that seeing the results was not mandatory. We were able to connect more with, and learn about, the SSNDs and experience their hospitality". Junior Julianna Buzzerio enjoyed the opportunities for reflection and discussion, adding that this was "a great opportunity to grow closer with the people at St. Peter's and my fellow Angels."

The Philadelphia trip was a part of an ongoing relationship between Holy Angels and St. Peter's which began almost 2 years ago when S. Peggy McGaffney of AHA and S. Rose Federici of St. Peter's had a conversation about how they could link their ministries. During the 2011-2012 school year, AHA adopted St. Peter's for its annual Thanksgiving drive, raising money for gifts cards that were given to some of St. Peter's needy families during the holiday season. The schools also exchanged video messages, and the students at AHA were gifted with St. John Neumann prayer cards and medals from St. Peter's. The schools were further united in prayer when St. Peter's faced the possibility of closure. During that time, the students at AHA adopted St. Peter's students as prayer partners and prayed that the school would remain open, while the students at St. Peter's stormed heaven and St. John Neumann, asking for his intercession. St. Peter's has remained open, but is not without its challenges. This past school year (2012-2013) AHA students sponsored various fund raising activities and visited St. Peter's twice, joining with them for their St. Nicholas celebration and for International Day in the spring.

A little closer to home, eight AHA students, accompanied by AHA staff members Terri Caust, Kate Chambers, Jennifer Cucchisi, Carol Fay, Maryanne Miloscia, Jennifer Moran and Kathy Sylvester, spent a week in July working along the Jersey Shore with the national organization Rebuilding Together. Rebuilding Together gives preference to the elderly and to families who have been displaced from their homes. The Bergen County chapter of Rebuilding Together is working on projects in Little Ferry and Moonachie, two areas of New Jersey that are still in need of recovery from Hurricane Sandy. In past years, AHA had sent a team each summer to work on rebuilding projects in New Orleans, where they helped restore homes devastated by Hurricane Katrina. This year's team did the same work but in its own backyard.

The Recovery Center, headquarters for this project, is housed at the First Presbyterian Church in Moonachie NJ, which itself was affected by the storm. The volunteer group started by scraping and painting the foundation of the host church. The rest of the week was spent on two homes in Moonachie, which were referred to as Crate and Barrel projects because the funds to rebuild these homes had been donated by the Crate and Barrel Company. Professionals did the electrical, carpentry and plumbing work, and the AHA team assisted by scraping, taping, priming and painting. One of the homes was owned by a woman and her 91 year old mother. In the rebuilding process, accommodations were made to the house to make navigating easier for the mother, and to be as energy efficient as possible.

Senior Kayla Quigley reported that her participation with Rebuilding Together helped her to realize just how many people the storm affected so close to home. She shared, “I was shocked to see how much still needed to be done almost a year after the devastation occurred.” Senior Judie Park commented that her participation helped her to develop a greater sense of community, noting “We were all together for the same reasons, trying to rebuild something that was once special to someone. We bonded through this and even today, I look back and think of that week. The week went by like it was two days.”



Pictured above is the Jersey Shore team (L to R): Kerriane Villareal, Ivetty Estepan, Adrianna Bergstein, Judie Park, Katie Drury, Kayla Quigley, A’Adil Al-Jenkins, and Camillia Castillo



Pictured above is the Philadelphia team (back row L to R): St. Peter’s Faculty member Ms. Fern Hagerty, Melanie Buchanan, Julia DeSimone, Christina Sivulka, S. Rose Federici, Principal of St. Peter's, Emma Sanders, Samantha Doka, Carolina Zuluaga, Kensley Lipka, and St. Peter’s Faculty member Ms. Colleen Hagerty; (front row L to R) Mrs. Miloscia, Laurel Villarente, Zoe Esposito, Annie King, Anna Abrimian, Julianna Buzzerio and Mrs. Sylvester