

March 14 Institute of Notre Dame Seniors reflect on the meaning of Solidarity with Parkland Students

I get angry because guns seem to be more important than human beings. It's the only nation where this seems to happen. Today helped us to remind others that human beings are more important than guns or money.



I appreciated the chance to stand in respectful solidarity and to memorialize those killed. I still ask the question: Will anyone take this to the next step- action with respect to our current gun laws.

It's easier to get a gun license than it is to get a driver's license.


This was a way to show our government that we want to effect change. It was a way for us to have a voice when sometimes we feel so powerless.

Awareness Day Highlights Search for Unity, Need to Speak Out

Academy of the Holy Angels

**ACTION IN
SOLIDARITY WITH
MARJORY STONEMAN
DOUGLAS
HIGH SCHOOL**

#ENOUGH



*“Thus says our God:
In Ramah is heard the sound of sobbing,
bitter weeping! Rachel mourns for her children,
she refuses to be consoled for her children are
no more.” Jeremiah 31:15*

22



AHA students writing awareness letters

A school tradition and a national event converged March 14th at the Academy of the Holy Angels, where the Awareness Day theme of “Seeking Unity in a Diverse World” dovetailed with student actions in solidarity with the survivors of the February 14th shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida.

At the morning assembly, student leader Sydney Otis explained that the day would include opportunities to recall the 17 people who lost their lives last month, including a minute of silence in the morning. Later in the morning, several students gathered without speaking a word, holding signs that read, “Never again” and “Support gun reform.” During the afternoon, students observed 17 minutes of silence and wrote letters to their representatives or to the survivors of the Parkland shooting.

These thoughtful acts were AHA’s response to National Walkout Day.

March 14 Notre Dame Prep in Solidarity with Parkland Students



Our Solidarity Event

We first assembled in the auditorium. Three student leaders led us in school song, a prayer from the School Sisters of Notre Dame, education about gun violence in the USA, and then a moment of silence. Students were then invited to gather around our statue of Blessed Theresa Gerhardinger, which was surrounded by candles representing each of the victims. A bell rang out to memorialize their lives, and then this statement was read to end the moment:

"So now we are calling upon our sisters, to be women who transform the world and speak out for what you believe in, and to be a voice for the voiceless. If this is a topic that is important to you, vote if you are able, consider attending the march in D.C. on the 24th, And more than anything else, do not be silent. Speak out, whether that be online or in person. Continue keeping up to date on the news, and educate yourself and those around you. As young women with the ability to transform the world, it is our duty to seek justice in the world around us. To quote Elie Wiesel: "There may be times when we are powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never be a time when we fail to protest."





SSND speaks at Awareness Day at Academy of the Holy Angels

**Sr. Leonora Tucker, (left) speaks about
a Syrian Refugee Family who has been
a welcomed resident at Villa Notre
Dame in Wilton, CT.**

Sister Leonora Tucker, SSND, spoke about the School Sisters' effort to house a family of Syrian refugees (a mother and her five children) in a house on the SSND grounds in Wilton, Connecticut. S. Leonora noted that 11 million people have been forced to flee Syria, and many are met with indifference. Pope Francis has urged the world to welcome and protect these refugees and help integrate them into society, and the SSNDs responded by accepting this family.

The mother of the family has received a driver's license and found steady employment. When she learned English, she began to say "thank you" to the SSNDs again and again.

S. Leonora said she prays that the Emma Lazarus poem at the base of the Statue of Liberty ("Give me your tired...") will become the norm again.