

For immediate release

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Peace Holds “If You Really Knew Me... ” Harmony Day

Queen of Peace High School held its first Harmony Day of the school year - “*If You Really Knew Me – You Would Learn I Am More Than You Can See!*” - November 18. During this full-day event at Peace, speakers, as well as student groups, facilitated workshops aimed at improving Queen of Peace students’ awareness of and compassion towards one another, the local community and the greater global community.

Throughout the morning, students were divided into Harmony Communities that included representation from each grade level. They participated in presentations from the National Association of Down Syndrome (NADS), which focused on raising awareness of Down Syndrome and people with special needs; Harmony Hope and Healing - a creative music program offering dignity and spiritual healing to the homeless and underserved in the Chicago area; two women from Women of Power Alumni Association who spoke to the students regarding their experiences in Human Trafficking and being incarcerated.

Queen of Peace administrators also shared their personal stories with students, as did senior Justine Villar who presented information about illegal or undocumented citizens in the Chicagoland area and relayed the story of how her best friend Martha was deported.

“The presenters had the same unifying message – since we don’t know their story, we don’t have the right to judge,” junior Dy’Anna Augustus said. “The presentations showed me that even though our world might be beautiful, we have a lot of work to do. Other countries, other cities and other neighborhoods are suffering and it’s good to be aware.”

Members of Queen of Peace’s Art Club and Hunger and Poverty Task Force facilitated two workshops. In the school’s art rooms, students decorated CDs. The “shiny” side symbolized

who they are and how others see them, while on the other side, a labyrinth design was affixed for the closing ceremony. Members of the Poverty and Hunger Task Force presented a workshop entitled “Understanding Poverty.”

Harmony Day concluded with an all-school closing ceremony focused on the Queen of Peace community. Four students and a staff member shared their “stories.”

“We really admired everyone’s courage to stand in front of us and talk to us,” said junior Gina Miglieri.

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Photo caption:



Queen of Peace students (from left) Dorothy Murzydlo, Krista Godinez, Sonia Shahin, Angela Kocanda, Shelby Kodis, Taylor Malloy and Liz Famera decorated CDs during Peace’s first Harmony Day of the school year – “If You Really Knew Me – You Would Learn That I Am More Than You Can See!” The decorations on the “shiny” side of the CD symbolized who they are and how others see them.