

The Solidarity Newsletter

Volume 1 | Issue 5
Sept 12-Sept 16

“In the Sacrament [Reconciliation]...you are freed from sin and from its ugly companion which is shame. Your burdens are lifted and you experience the joy of new life in Christ.”

St. John Paul II

FROM THE SAINTS

“Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier. Be the living expression of God’s kindness.”

St. Teresa of Calcutta

JPII Students and Faculty Join Together to Pray after the 15th Anniversary of the 9/11 Attacks

On Monday of this week, the students and faculty met in Solidarity to reflect and pray for those affected by terrorist attacks. Before the Solidarity Teams prayed a Divine Mercy Chaplet, they read an article on Welles Crowther, “the man in the red bandanna” who saved countless lives in the World Trade Center on 9/11. He assisted first responders but was not one himself. Crowther died courageously as he gave his life for the safety of others. The article can be found [here](#).

After reading the article, Solidarity Teams prayed a Divine Mercy chaplet and offered up a decade for each of the following intentions: the victims of the 9/11 terrorist attacks and their families, for all children who have lost their lives in shooting attacks at school, especially at Columbine High School and at Sandy Hook Elementary, for all those who died in the recent Paris shootings, for those who lost their lives in the Pulse Night Club shooting in Orlando in June and for all those who have lost their lives or have been affected by war, violence, and terrorism.

Thank you to the St. Teresa of Calcutta Solidarity Team for helping put on Mass this week.

Next Week:

The St. Francis of Assisi Solidarity Team will help put on Mass.

This Week's Topic: Confession

This week, Solidarity Teams learned about the Sacrament of Confession. On Tuesday, two videos were watched on the Sacrament. The first video was an audience with Pope Francis. He spoke briefly on how every Catholic should go to confession, even if it's been 40 years since his or her last confession. The link can be found [here](#). The second video was on the sacrament itself. It answered questions about Confession such as "Where did it come from? Why do I need to confess my sins? Why do I need to confess my sins to a priest? Can't I just confess my sins to Christ? How do I go to confession?" The link can be found [here](#). The video shows us that through the sacrament of Confession, we encounter Christ in the priest.

Thursday, we looked at a Prezi (online presentation) that answered some of the basic questions about the Sacrament of Confession: "Where is Confession in the Bible? Won't a priest tell my sins to someone? How do I go to Confession?" The Prezi can be found [here](#). Within the Prezi is a video of St. Josemaría Escrivá, a priest in Spain in the mid 1900s, speaking on the sacrament of Confession.

At JPPII, we are blessed to have our chaplain, Fr. John Francis celebrate the sacrament of Confession once a week. Typically, Confessions are during 5th and 6th period on Tuesdays. This week, we had 20 students receive the sacrament of Confession! Praise God for the graces that the student body received this week.