

Incarnate Word Academy Commemorates the 10th Anniversary of 9/11 with Ribbons of Hope and Prayers for Peace



The IWA community joins the nation to honor and reflect upon the events of 9/11 as we commemorate the tenth anniversary of this unforgettable day in our history. Students, faculty, staff, and administration participated in Ribbons of Hope, an interactive community project that includes people of all backgrounds, religions, ages, and races to offer a ribbon inscribed with a message of hope and healing for New York City and the world.

Students on all levels offered their own personal messages on the Ribbons of Hope. "My sister first told me that we were sending ribbons of peace to New York, even before I heard about it in class," explains Diego Elizondo, sixth grade. His sister, Alegre, is a junior at IWA High School. Students inscribed ribbons during their religion classes, before and after school, as well as during their lunch periods.



Middle Level student Paige Lippincott shares a moment with fifth grader Katelyn Ashley and Montessori first grader, Clara McCauley, composing heartfelt messages for the Ribbons of Hope.

The ribbons from the IWA community have been sent to New York where they will become part of the Tapestry for Peace. The tapestry will be located in Battery Park, near Ground Zero and will be a multi-colored, multi-cultural tapestry of prayers, hopes, dreams, and memories.

I think that this project is amazing," shares IWA senior Alex Armstrong. "I can still remember coming home the day the planes hit the World Trade Center. Everyone in my family was stunned, and it seemed like the entire world had come to a standstill. But after the initial shock wore off, everyone came together.

Even though most of the younger kids weren't here to experience that sense of unity that was felt after the chaos, they can [feel it now] by offering their prayers and words of encouragement to the victims and their families."



First grade students Madeline Braman, Cash Colwell, Savanna Bostick, and Jordan Smithwick view the IWA Peace Pole for the first time as they learn about the events of 9/11.

The IWA Peace Pole Visits the Elementary Level



K-4 students, Matison Johnson and Austin Wesselski touch a piece of the wreckage from Ground Zero which is placed at the base of the IWA Peace Pole.

In conjunction with the Ribbons of Hope project, a Peace Pole will be placed on our campus in recognition of our continued awareness and vigilant prayer for peace in our world. "The Peace Pole represents our prayers for peace in a violent and troubled world and serves as a reminder of our Christian responsibility and obligation to become people of peace," explains Sister Rosa Ortiz, IWA Director of Campus Ministry. "'Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called children of God.' (Mt. 5:9). God's Word to us through Jesus and His Gospel requires a personal response from each of us. In the words of our foundress [of the Order of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament], Jeanne Chezard de Matel, 'let us aim to be ministers of peace among those who do not possess it.'"

The Peace Pole has been making its way to each campus level, beginning with the High School from August 30 to September 1; the Middle Level from September 2 to 6 ; and the Montessori /Elementary Level from September 7 to 9.

On the weekend of 9/11, the Peace Pole will be permanently set by the brick path that leads up to the statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, outside of the Central Offices. Teachers, students, and campus guests are invited to visit this simple monument and offer prayers for peace and to reflect on the ways they can contribute to peace in the world.

May it always stand as a symbol of our need to pray for peace and of our continual growth and transformation into God's People of Peace.