

St Michael's Catholic College

Summer Term



RESPECT | UNDERSTANDING | AFFECTION | HUMOUR

RUAH

“The breath of life that animates the soul”



WELCOME BACK TO A NEW YEAR

I believe, Lord.

*I believe that each of my students is your child.
I believe that they are a reflection of your love.*

*I believe that each child possesses special gifts and talents,
that you are entrusting me to help them discover these gifts
and nurture those talents.*

*I believe that each child is trying to find you,
And that I can be a model of how to look,
How to live, how to pray.*

*I believe that my job is actually a mission, a ministry;
That you have chosen me in this time and in this place
To be there for these kids.*

*I believe that there is nothing haphazard about my day,
About my experiences with my students or with their parents.
It is all part of your plan.*

*I believe that you have chosen me, Lord.
I believe.*

As with each year, we welcomed new staff to join us at the college.

Joining us as a teacher of MFL Ms Cadahia, in the Psychology department we now have Ms Wrigley and Science were joined by Ms Pellegrino and Ms Begum. As a teacher of English we have Ms Cumber and in Business Studies we also have been joined by Mr Jeffrey. We have a brand new team in DT, with Ms Shillito and Ms Aofolaju. Also joining the Computer Science department are Mr Clarke and Ms Jiang. Also, in January we gained a new head of Drama – Ms Coulbeck, so an official welcome to her. As well as Mr Murungi who from September has joined the PE department full time as a Sports Development Officer. Finally, in the support and SEND/inclusion team we were also joined by Miss Simms.

A short, but special service was held on the 1st day of term to welcome our new staff members in the Chapel. Miss Casey led as part of the new staff welcome, with a special focus and intention for a prosperous new year.

YEAR 7 WELCOME MASS

On Friday 2nd September, our new Year 7 gathered together at Dockhead Church alongside their form tutors, senior staff and parents. It was a wonderful opportunity to be together and give thanks for the new community that we have formed. Canon Alan said Mass for us and many students took part in the Mass led by Miss Casey; in the choir, as readers and during the offertory. Ms. Corcoran spoke to pupils and parents about new beginnings and the achievements that we have to look forward to. We gave thanks to God for our school community and prayed for the year ahead.

Mrs Bryant – Head of RE



On Friday 2nd September, I was fortunate enough to get to do a reading with some of my other classmates. I was very proud to open the year by reading in front of the priest, parents, teachers, and friends, my family was very proud of me, especially my mum. I hope I can do more things like this in the future, I owe a gigantic thank you to Miss Casey and my classmates for helping and encouraging me to do this.

Zachary O – Year 7

FRIDAY MASS AT ST. MICHAEL'S



Once again at St Michael's we have enjoyed regular Friday Masses at 8am in the college Chapel. As always Fr. Keith celebrates Mass with us and we have also been lucky enough to be joined by Fr. Howard in recent weeks. It's really lovely to see our own pupils' Parish Priests able to join and lead the congregation each week.

This year, Friday Mass has had clear themes, most recently Remembrance Day and Advent. As always we are joined by Mr Laurence who leads the music, and on occasion we also have Mrs Laurence, the choir and instrumentalists joining us in worship.

Each week, a form group takes it in turns to share the readings, the bidding prayers and the offertory – it has been great to see our pupils stepping up to share in the celebration of Mass and to demonstrate their faith.



ST. MICHAEL'S DAY 2022

St Michael's Day 2022 was a roaring success!!

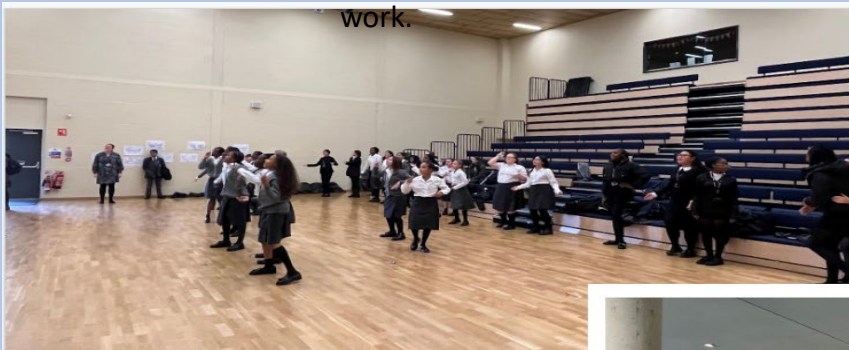
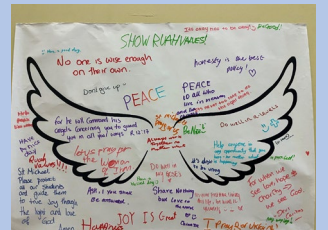
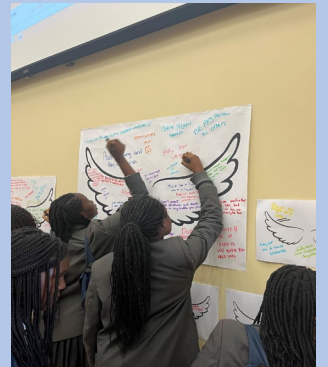
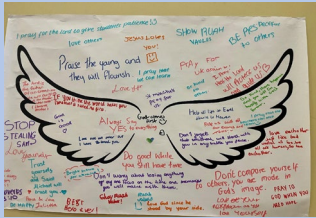
The brainchild of the Year 13 Chaplaincy Team (when they were in Year 12), this event was a long time coming. Originally the team planned a Summer Festival but they eventually had the idea to make St Michael's Day a bigger and better event than ever before. Following messages and prayers St Michael's wings and assemblies during the day, we gathered together at the end of the day to enjoy two hours of brilliant fun and community spirit..

The list of events included:

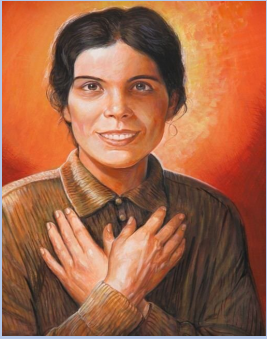
- Karaoke
- Tuck-shop
- Penalty Shootout
- Carnival Games
- Body and Face Glitter
- Sponge the Teacher
- Sponge the Sixth Former
- Dodgeball
- Just Dance

The sixth formers were really keen, that everyone should get involved. The, now, Year 13s remember pre-Covid events when the whole school would come together and truthfully this was the first time this was actually possible. They were also incredibly aware of the economic climate that we are now currently living in, and in the vein of Solidarity (part of the principles of Catholic Social Teaching), they wanted to make sure everyone could get involved. Over 300 students stayed to take part in the events, which included a host of free activities as well.

Overall in an incredibly short space of time £285 was raised for CAFOD to support their global work.



CHARITY WEEKS



DACOSTA

Classes across DaCosta house came together to arrange a host of events to help raise money for charity. The events included a tuck-shop, a pinata smash and a cup stacking game, to name a few.

In total DaCosta house raised over £110 for Young Minds!!

Being in Year 7 we didn't realise that there were so many things we would do as a House when we first joined the school. We ran a tuck-shop at the start of the week, but Miss Casey also asked us to help out with the Year 11 DaCosta tuck-shop as they were in lessons. We wanted to help because we knew it was going to a good cause. It was also really great to do things together as a community to help another community. It was our first real experience of DaCosta charity week and it was so much fun to get involved and try new things. Overall we just had fun and it was enjoyable, everyone said they loved it. We're looking forward to next year, new ideas and getting more involved.

Bobby S and Evie M – 7 DaCosta



RUA

Rua house managed to raise £75 for the Anti Bullying Alliance charity. Classes in all year groups came together to help raise this money, showing true Salesian Values in action.

For Rua charity week we put on lots of different events. We had a basketball competition, card games and tuck-shop. Whilst some events didn't raise too much money, it was great to get involved and we were all passionate about doing it.

In our form Blanka and James hosted the Basketball match and it went really well. However the event which made the most money was the tuck-shop, we had lots of sweets, chocolate and crisps available to buy which proved really popular.

This wasn't the most money Rua has ever made, but we worked together and we had fun doing it which is the most important thing.

Kyara T and Ayomide D – 9 Rua



WORLD RELIGIONS FESTIVAL

FOCUS – THE GURU NANAK DAY



Our first World Religion Event of the Year was in celebration of Guru Nanak, the founder of Sikhism. Students in the college have learned about Sikhism, so it was a fantastic chance for everyone to get the time to learn a little about this momentous person. In KS3, the RE department shared special lessons to explore the background of the Guru and how he founded Sikhism.

Guru Nanak was a man of faith but wasn't concerned with the religions around him in India at the time. Additionally, he had always shown himself to be quite a special man who had special things happen to him. One day, he went into the river and suddenly disappeared, but eventually returned three days later which was a miracle! When he returned he told people he had been with God and brought back a message. The message was of peace, harmony and equality. People listened and understood the message of God from Guru Nanak and began to follow him, creating Sikhism. Today his birthday is celebrated each year, this year on the 8th November, but it is actually a three day festival involving music, food, praying, martial arts displays, parades and much more.

At St Michael's we threw a small party to commemorate this. Year 7 and Year 8 Faith in Action helped to create decorations and make the hall look spectacular. Different classes created cards for the festival which were also displayed in the hall. Miss Stewart, Mr Kelly and the Year 12 Chaplaincy team helped lead the food distribution and ensured everyone got traditional food and snacks to try. Finally, before the party of food and dancing kicked off, Miss Casey shared with all attendees a small background to the festival. Fun was had by all, and it was great to see so many different people across the college getting involved.

CHAPLAINCY TEAMS



In Advent, pupils from Faith in Action in Year 7 and Year 8 designed and led assemblies on the anticipation of Advent. Year 7 designed a post box which was placed in the internet café, in here people could place messages of hope for advent. During the week itself, Year 8 led the assemblies alongside Miss Stewart to share the true meaning of the season of Advent. Pupils in Year 8 will soon be awarded their Bronze Faith in Action award in a ceremony taking place in the next year.



The Year 13s who graduated from the previous CAFOD leadership group had an amazing time putting together their St Michael's Day event, but it wouldn't have been possible without the support of the new Year 12s who have joined their ranks. The Year 12 Chaplaincy and CAFOD group have made a great start to their time in their new roles. So far they have helped with events, including St Michael's Day, the Guru Nanak Celebration, Harvest assemblies and were crucial in the planning and actioning of the Advent Fundraiser – which involved chaplaincy students across the whole college.

Once again, pupils across the school have been putting their best foot forward to get involved in lots of events to demonstrate their faith in action. Currently, we have Chaplaincy teams across all Key Stages and active involvement in Year 7 and 8 (Faith in Action Teams) and Year 10 (Chaplaincy) and Year 12 (CAFOD Youth Leaders). The pupils have been involved in hosting and attending a wide range of events this term.

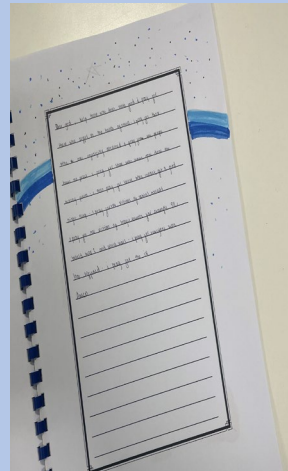
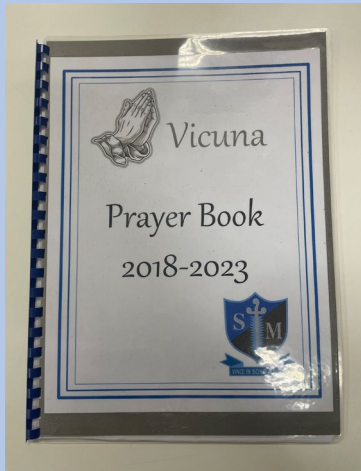


Year 10 have taken over caring for the Chapel this year and are taking great pride in keeping our liturgical sanctuary a safe and well respected space. As always Year 10 provide great support to the Year 12 CAFOD team by helping events to run and overseeing the involvement of the younger chaplaincy students.



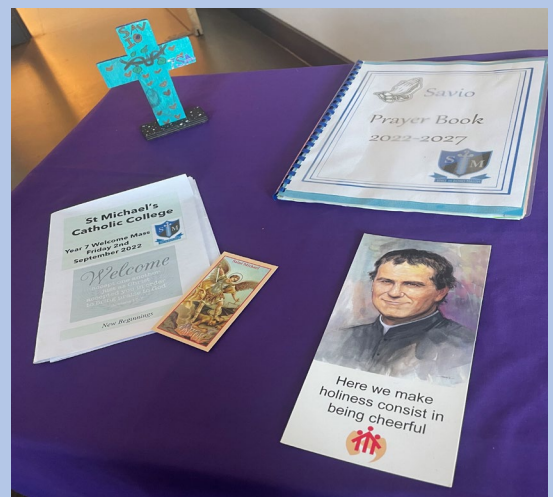
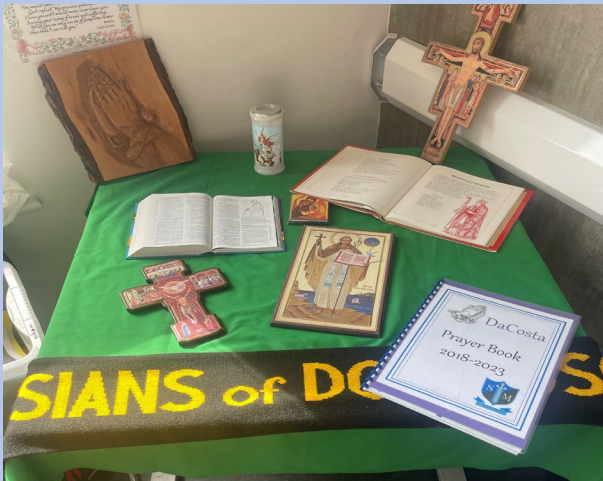
FORM TIME: PRAYER AND LITURGY

During our previous academic year, during RE lessons, we spent time creating lessons which focused on the importance of prayer and the different forms of prayer. We rolled out these lessons to the new Year 7s and Year 12s in September which helped us to bring together something we had been planning since last January. Each form class now has a completed and personalised prayer book which tutors and tutees can use to lead prayer time during the morning and afternoon registrations. It is a fantastic chance for pupils to share together their intentions and hopes, but at the same time, if they so wish – it can be anonymous and so they can share their thoughts privately in a communal setting. These books are designed to last their time at St Michael's, but of course they can be added to over the years. Mr Mullik and 9 Bosco have already put together some additional prayers to share during form times and lots of tutors have taken inspiration from this. Each prayer book is in the house colours and features the years pupils will be with us at the college.



These prayer books are proudly displayed on the new form prayer tables which feature in each form class. Each class has been given a few items to help them decorate, but pupils across the college are encouraged to bring in items or create things to place on the tables as a representation of the pupils of the form. Additionally, Mr Kelly and Miss Casey ran a cross decorating house competition, where each form was given a blank wooden cross to decorate and the best ones were awarded points for their house.

The prayer tables help to reflect the liturgical year, as they originally had green cloths for ordinary time and we have now moved into purple as Advent has begun. We continue to encourage pupils to bring in items which help to bring the tables together and become a present and well used feature of form time liturgy and prayer.



ROME 2022

On Monday 24th October 2022 we flew to Rome with our friends. We were so excited about it because it was our first experience in Italy. When we arrived in Rome we first went and visited St Peter's Basilica it was an eye-opening experience. Afterwards we headed to our hotel to have dinner. We had proper Italian food. It was delicious. Then on Tuesday, we went to the Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore. We had so much fun because we took a lot of pictures and also saw historical buildings. Next we went to the Vatican museum and it was amazing because we got to see the inside of the Sistine Chapel. *Denzel P – Year 9*



After so many years of uncertainty it was brilliant to be able to start international trips again this year. During October half term, for the first time in 4 years, Year 9 were able to go to Rome. Mr Kelly, Miss Casey, Mr Mullik, Mr Devine, Miss Stanley and Miss Yon had the pleasure of accompanying them for this life changing experience. It was a fantastic opportunity to take our pupils to the home of the Catholic Church and remind them of the root and formation of their faith.

Rome was my first opportunity to go to on a school trip abroad which gave me many different memories for the future. Visiting the Vatican city to see Pope Francis was a rare opportunity for us. In addition, we saw some of the most famous landmarks such as: Colosseum, Trevi Fountain and the Pantheon. All these places had historical meanings behind them so we had tour guides who informed us about what happened in the past. Not only that, but most places had some beautiful artwork in them such as the Sistine Chapel which had many different saints and religious stories included in it. During lunch and dinner I got to try out many different Italian foods such as pizza, pasta and lasagna. Overall, this trip gave me the opportunity to visit new places but also allowed me to make new friends..

Amelia O – Year 9



ADVENT FUNDRAISER

As part of the Year 12 Leadership Program, they were tasked with organizing some form of event or fundraising activity for this term. Pupils and Miss Casey decided to fundraise and advertise for the Senior Citizen's Party. They came up with two plans:

1. A multi chaplaincy team Advent Tuckshop
2. Asking staff, students and parents to provide items for the raffle.

Lots of items were donated for the raffle, boxes of chocolates, wine and even a set of GHD's!!

The fundraiser ran across two lunchtimes. Pupils from Year 7 and Year 8 Faith in Action ran KS3 lunch and Year 10 and Year 12 Chaplaincy ran KS4+KS5 lunch. This was all overseen by pupils from the CAFOD Year 12 team.

In total they raised £104, to go towards the Senior Citizen's Party on the 13th December.



OCTOBER HARVEST FOODBANK APPEAL

Throughout October we asked staff and students to bring in any extra donations they had for the Southwark Food Bank. This went alongside special CAFOD and Harvest assemblies led by Mariae, Mariana, Sadie and Regina in Year 12.

Miss Casey asked me to help lead assemblies on the Harvest festival. I wanted to get involved to contribute to our college community, and for me, the best way to do this was through sharing information about the importance of Harvest and donations in assemblies to the rest of the college. This was a great way to encourage everyone how to consider the lives of others in their daily lives and sometimes think about others before themselves. Each day a different member of other chaplaincy groups across the college helped to lead the prayer, this showed the importance of the message as we all came together to showcase and share RUAH values.

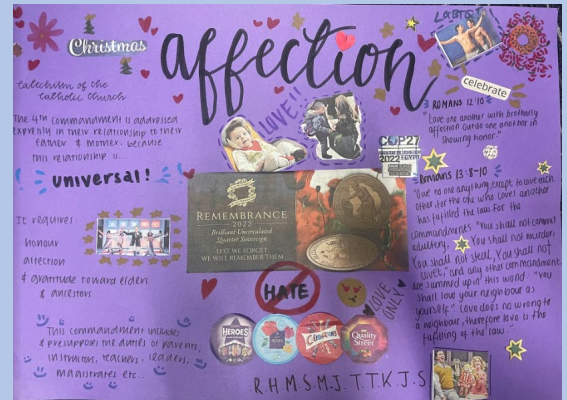
Mariana R-L – Year 12



YEAR 12 RETREAT

The retreat was a nice and fun experience, certainly we didn't know what to expect. It was a great opportunity to come together as a year group and get to know people we didn't know as well by this point in Year 12, alongside the chance to socialise with the friends we already had. The theme of the day was **SOLIDARITY**, one of the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, which the aim was to show the union between all members of our year group. Since we were all together, it helped us as a whole, strengthen our relationship with God. My favourite part of the day was the poster work. Miss Casey provided us with hints and resources but we had the chance to create anything we wanted. My group created a presentation on **HUMOUR**, one of the RUAH Values we have at school – and the focus of our poster was how we could showcase strength and resilience in all that we do as a college community. Overall, it was a great end to the week and I got more out of it than I expected in terms of understanding more about our Catholic values at St Michael's.

Dior J – Year 12



CAFOD YOUNG LEADERS

On Wednesday 5th October 2022, 12 pupils in Year 13 attended their graduation ceremony for their CAFOD YLT course at Amigo Hall at St George's Cathedral. The pupils have been signed up to this course since November 2021 and whilst it got off to a shaky start being all on Zoom, they persevered to showcase their amazing leadership skills. It was in January 2022 when they first came up with the idea of a summer festival and whilst time ran away from us, they were finally able to put on their festival for St Michael's Day. Their idea was simple; fun, games and activities for all and any proceeds were to go to CAFOD's Step Up To The Plate Campaign. This campaign was close to their hearts, as at their training day in May 2021 they got to see the hard work CAFOD does to ensure global food equality and where as one world we are failing. During the day itself, the Year 13s (then Year 12) mingled with pupils from other schools, engaged in hearty debates and activities to explore the great work CAFOD does. One thing they took away from the day was the idea of teaching younger pupils all about the CAFOD Step Up To The Plate Campaign, and through much meticulous organisation, the pupils of the Sixth Form Chaplaincy Team delivered lessons to all classes in Year 7 and Year 8 across one week in June in RE lessons. CAFOD kindly provided the lessons we adapted and Miss Casey arranged the resources. The activities were designed to make the pupils in KS3 think about the fairness of food in the world and the final task was to write a message to the government to explain the need to overcome injustice in food worldwide. The representatives from CAFOD were completely amazed with the work our pupils had done and even shared their work at national conferences the next day, showcasing just how brilliant our St Michael's pupils are!! It has been a delight to watch them grow over the year and take part in so many activities and become outstanding leaders, and now they hand the mantle over to the Year 12s as the Year 13s focus on their A Levels, CTECs and University applications.

Miss Casey, Head of Chaplaincy

The new Year 12 team gathered on Thursday 17th November at Amigo Hall to begin their training. Here is what they had to say...

Going to CAFOD was an eye opening experience which helped us understand the help that CAFOD gives to people across the globe in emergency situations but how they stay with the people in order to rebuild countries after emergency aid has left. We were able to understand CAFOD's true meaning and how they want us as the next generation to continue in their name by spreading awareness in our schools.

We were surrounded by amazing other volunteers just like ourselves and this helped us improve our ability to work as a team. The leader structured the day according to our likes and dislikes as young adults and in general filled the room with kindness.

Being a part of the trip for CAFOD has allowed us to gain a new perspective of the organisation and its work across the globe. Learning about the organisation's achievements and how it was founded was really influential as it taught me how i could make a change to my local community.

Wilson H-B, Laura F-P and Sadie B – Year 12



The trip to Cafod also meant that we were able to start to build a new community of students that want to help others and build relationships with each other. Having gone on the trip allowed me to step out of my comfort zone and do new things. Making me glad that I chose to become a CAFOD volunteer.

Going on the trip to CAFOD was a one of a kind experience where one learns of what CAFOD is and how it came to be. However this was not just about the learning, it encouraged me to do more in ways such as volunteering and raising money. For example in Colombia, my home country and many other countries who may need help in the coming future.

It was a great experience to meet many new people, knowing that I am helping out CAFOD at the same time by becoming a volunteer for them.

Going on the trip last week allowed me to feel more close to the community, especially CAFOD. We learnt many things such as CAFOD having 17 global goals to sustain the World which us as people in the local area need to meet as we are Stewards of the Earth. It was also a chance to speak to people in my year I hadn't had the chance to get to know yet, and Kirstie who ran it was a real inspiration to all young people.

We learnt about how CAFOD makes a difference in our world, and we too can also make a difference in our school community. was a very fun and eye opening experience to learn more in depth about Cafod and what their organisation does to help those in need, it was also a good experience to meet new people and see what their views on this would be and give my opinion and ideas too

Samanta K, Morgana F, Mariana R-L, Dylan S, Ayomide I and Aaron G-M – Year 12



UPCOMING

As the Bulletin goes out before the end of term, here are some of the events taking place in the last week of term we will update you about in the Spring Term. Also make sure to look at the school Twitter for daily updates as to what is going on!

- Senior Citizens' Party 2022
- Christmas Services at Most Holy Trinity Church
- Year 11 Retreat
- Rewards Afternoon
- Christmas Jumper Competition
- Christmas Door Competition
- Christmas Dinner



Christmas Card Winner 2022
Maia J – Year 7

A MESSAGE FOR CHRISTMAS...

Ms. Corcoran - Principal

God grant you the light in
Christmas, which is faith;
the warmth of Christmas,
which is love;
the radiance of Christmas,
which is purity;
the righteousness of
Christmas, which is justice;
the belief in Christmas, which
is truth;
the all of Christmas, which is
Christ.

~ Wilda English

*Miss Casey – Head of
Chaplaincy*

O sweet Child of Bethlehem,
grant that we may share with all our hearts
in this profound mystery of Christmas.
Put into the hearts of men and women this peace
for which they sometimes seek so desperately
and which you alone can give to them.
Help them to know one another better,
and to live as brothers and sisters,
children of the same Father.
Reveal to them also your beauty, holiness and
purity.
Awaken in their hearts
love and gratitude for your infinite goodness.
Join them all together in your love.
And give us your heavenly peace. Amen.

~ Pope John XXIII