

Mount Students Champion Justice Day: Fostering Veritas, Caritas, and Dominican Pillars for Lasting Change

Last week, Mount students organized and executed a highly successful Justice Day, marked by a series of engaging and educational activities centered around the theme: Living in a Just World. The event, which coincided with Catholic Schools Week, brought together Mount students to deepen their understanding of justice and its various facets, all while aligning with the Mount's core principles of Veritas (truth), Caritas (love), and the Four Pillars of Dominican life—Prayer, Study, Community, and Mission. These pillars lay the foundation at the Mount for a meaningful and successful future, emphasizing the importance of loyalty to learning, love and virtue.

The day commenced with a student-led prayer service, setting the tone for a thoughtful exploration of justice. Later, students actively participated in breakout sessions covering topics such as justice for women, animals, and the environment, reinforcing the importance of education, information, and service in fostering positive change. The event culminated in a game of Family Feud, serving as a fun and interactive way to reinforce the day's learnings.

During the day, student presenters emphasized the connection between charity, justice, and the pursuit of truth (Veritas). They highlighted that while charity offers temporary solutions, justice involves permanent change, addressing the root causes of societal issues. The presenters elaborated on the four kinds of justice: Distributive, Legal, Commutative, and Social, illustrating their significance in fostering a just and equitable society.

A powerful example of justice in action was shared through a CBN news piece about Veronika Scott, the founder and CEO of the Empowerment Plan. This Detroit-based organization provides full-time employment and services for individuals recovering from homelessness, while producing innovative EMPWR Coats that transform into sleeping bags and are distributed globally. The transformation from charity to justice in this initiative serves as a testament to the lasting impact of addressing the root causes of social issues.

The day also featured two keynote speakers, Lynne Algrant and Liz Corcini, who addressed the school on the topics of equity and justice. Lynne Algrant, Chief Resource and Development Officer at Greater Bergen Community Action, shared her vision of a world without poverty, emphasizing the importance of breaking multi-generational poverty cycles. Liz Corcini, founding partner of the Collaborative for Organizational Change, discussed the distinctions between equality and equity, shedding light on the challenges individuals face in breaking the cycle of poverty due to rigid eligibility thresholds for public assistance.

Justice Day at the Mount was a resounding success. The event not only educated students on the principles of justice but also inspired them to be catalysts for positive change in their communities and beyond.