

Don Clarke's prayer at the assembly for the State Champion JHS Women's Soccer Team (11.16.15)

Let us pray:

Soccer is the most international sport. Soccer connects us with so many people around the world. We see this in ways ranging from our service trips, to when the world stops to watch an international match, to what our city does when the Timbers win. Sometimes we wish that the biggest struggle on our planet would be a soccer game!

This weekend events occurred to which the only response is prayer: acts of violence, with people trying to instill fear and using deadly force to exact revenge. As people died, we are again challenged by Christ's message of love.

Three years ago the theme for our school was hope. Hearts were posted throughout the school with the words, "I hope you." We were told that the best way to fight fear was with hope. We try to be a people of hope, breaking down walls, rather than building them. This is what God asks of us.

We have had students return from significant weekends lately: 41 of our students returned from Washington DC after lobbying for justice; the men of November realize that "nothing will be the same" now that they are back from their Encounter. May we be a people of Hope and of Love.

We are here to celebrate a team that, from what Coach Fennah tells me, knows what love is, having fought through adversity in the beginning of the year winning hold a state championship trophy on Saturday. Their support for each other and their success is what we acknowledge in our assembly, and in prayer.



Ten years ago walking in these halls was a young lady named Rosemarie. She spent two weeks here at Jesuit on an exchange from France. The following summer, Rosemarie's host student from Jesuit went to Paris to visit her. Here is a photo of Rosemarie visiting Mt. Bachelor.

Yesterday, Rosemarie posted this on Facebook:

"I am unable to find sleep; tears invade my eyes throughout the day, each new news, video, every testimony ices my blood. Today we are aware that this war exists, but it doesn't touch us only, we French. All those innocent people who are about to die under the French bombs in Syria, I think about them too. I care for not only for Paris, but for the whole of humanity who [should] not depend on the decisions of a few powerful people..."

I wrote to tell Rosemarie that we would talking about her today, to which she responded,

"Thank you so much for your support! We all have to be united to fight with the only thing that can save us: LOVE!"

Let us seek ways to love: learning on Encounters and retreats, in classes each day, in speaking to elected officials. Let us celebrate with continued hope when a team accomplishes a pretty remarkable goal, but are most known for their friendships, hope and love. May each place where we find love let the rest of the world know where to find peace. Amen.