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### **EIGHTH GRADERS DIVE INTO D.C.**

Fifty-one Saint Michael School eighth graders and six teachers recently completed a three-day field trip to Washington, D.C. where their studies in history and government as well as a unit on the Holocaust and "*Night*" came together.

Three key sites they visited included the Capitol, with a tour courtesy of Senator Burr's staff, the Holocaust Memorial Museum and the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. The students also received a tour of the White House and visited numerous memorials and monuments like the Korean War Veterans Memorial and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

"Many of the students were profoundly affected by the three key sites, and for most of them, this was their first time in a church as large and as awe-inspiring as the Shrine," says eighth-grade teacher Mr. Paul Gauthier. While they were there, the class was fortunate enough to be able to say a Rosary in one of the side chapels. A whispered, "This is so cool," could be heard on this visit.

After having studied a unit on the Holocaust and Elie Weisel's book, "*Night*," prior to the trip, Mrs. Laura Rudiger, the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts teacher, had the honor of meeting a Holocaust survivor that the class had seen on a Holocaust video segment. Some students witnessed Marine One landing on the White House lawn from the top of the Washington Monument.

The group arrived in Washington at noon on Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> and left to return home around 3:00 pm on Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>. The trip was a culmination of their studies and allowed the eighth-graders to see so many significant sites and even experience some not on the agenda. The dinner at the DC Hard Rock Café got some pretty high marks, too!

\*\*\*For more information on the curriculum, admissions, policies, or registration, visit <http://school.stmichaelcary.org>.