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A Glorious Day to Pray the Living Rosary

For Saint Michael School, October 13th was a glorious day to pray the Rosary! Representing the beads on a rosary chain, students from grades three through eight created a Living Rosary on the fields near the school. Other students recreated a "freeze frame" reenactment of each of the five Glorious Mysteries. Immediately following the Rosary, the 6th grade class participated in a first-ever Liturgical Dance.

Dr. Sarah Wannemuehler, our principal, began the Rosary while students, teachers, visitors, and parents prayed in unison. Kim Dandurand, Middle School Religion teacher, organized the students in each "freeze" while Kathleen Clabby, the dance/drama teacher, choreographed the impressive Liturgical Dance.

Liturgical Dance incorporates movement, reverent gestures and symbolism to bring the gospel to people in a way they've never seen before. The goal is to touch hearts and offer moments of connection with our faith. The 6th graders danced to the song, "Hail Mary Gentle Woman" by Christian singer John Niven. The girls and boys were doing reverent gestures that reflected the words in the song and long panels of fabric were used in the choreography to provide a picturesque backdrop. The wind filled those panels to add uplifting energy to the intricate patterns of movement. The five featured graceful dancers, Keelea Krear, Gabriela Cardeno, Erica Schumann, Emily Wood and Nicole Leuth, added a special flow to the Liturgical Dance.

Student participants were thrilled to be a part of the Marian devotion. Julie Salcido, a 3rd grader, was honored to be selected as a participant this year, "I always wished to be in it!" Brittany Leuth "felt so blessed to be a part of the Living Rosary and join in prayer with family and friends." Her sister, sixth grader Nicole Leuth who was a featured dancer, was happy to "show our love for God through the power of dance." Another 6th grader, Elle Schlageter, "liked showing (her) faith and praising God in a different way."

Pope Benedict XVI stated that the Rosary "...is one of the most eloquent signs of love that the young generation nourishes for Jesus and his Mother." The Saint Michael School community's annual representation of the Living Rosary proves that this is true.