



ST. RAYMOND SCHOOL

7th Grade Reflects on Day at Holy Fire

St. Raymond's 7th and 8th grade students, alongside nearly 8000 young people, gathered last month in Chicago to attend a day of prayer, celebration, worship and fun called Holy Fire. The day began with students enjoying live music from Joe Melendrez and Epic the Band. Students could be seen dancing and singing along to the lyrics, as they praised God through music.



"I saw faith in a different and more modern way. Instead of just going to Mass and listening to prayers, they played a lot of music," said 7th grade student, Hannah.



"I loved how they made music into Christian faith. My favorite moment was adoration. There was one moment where my eyes started to tear up because I could actually feel God's presence." said 7th grader, Lucy.

The students were then given the opportunity to listen to several speakers bear witness to the power of God. Father Rob Galea detailed his difficulty journey that eventually led him to the priesthood. Students were inspired by Father Rob's story. 7th grade student, Neve commented, "I enjoyed the speaker, Father Rob, because his life journey was very inspiring. I thought that he was the best, because his story really touched my heart. It made me think, do I make the right decisions? Am I listening to God?" Likewise, Christian speaker Brian Greensfield also made an impact on students with his story and call to faith. "I could feel God's presence when Brian was talking. He inspired me to pray," stated 7th grader, Connor.

The day wrapped up with a special Mass said by Cardinal Blase Joseph Cupich. Overall, it was a day students will not soon forget, filled with live music, dynamic speakers, praise experiences, and sacramental moments designed to deepen their faith. Another student, Anika, summed up her experience at Holy Fire by stating, "Holy Fire showed me that God didn't just send me here, he sent me here for a purpose. Holy Fire also showed me that we always have to stay alert and really watch for God's messaging."

