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Student Honored for Poem on World Communications Day

On World Communications Day, I was invited to receive an award because my poem, *The Start of a New Life* had won second place.

*Article by: Zoe
School: St. Andrew
Posted: May 15, 2009*

As soon as I heard I was invited, I was elated. It's like a dream to me when something I write is honored! My school had multiple students that were being honored, so they arranged for us to take a field trip to the Diocese of Orlando offices.



Bishop Wenski and Zoe smile for the many cameras during an awards ceremony at the Diocese of Orlando offices.

Everyone was excited to be going there. Once we arrived, we looked around the room where the ceremony was held. They decided to do something special to my poem; they printed it onto a poster over a beautiful green background with yellow letters and a picture of hands raised upward. I was overjoyed to see that, and even happier when they said I could take it home.

Then came the awards ceremony. Many people were given certificates for their projects. Then, I was called up to receive mine. Like the people before me, I had my photo taken with Bishop Wenski. It took a while for everyone to get a photo, and Bishop Wenski summed up his thoughts jokingly in one word: "Paparazzi".

Afterwards, everyone got refreshments and looked around the room some more. A few people complimented me on my poem, and I was glad to hear them. When all of that was over, we went back to school. I took the poster of my poem home, and we are currently looking for a picture frame for it.

Faith News Online is a special section of the Diocese of Orlando website that features articles written by and about local Catholic youth and young adults. These articles and photos describe the people, places and events that are having an impact on the faith and education of our young people. This section launched in February, 2009 with 12 students representing 9 schools but now has expanded to include every school, parish and religious education program in the 9 counties of our Diocese. We hope you enjoy reading about the faith journey of our Catholic youth and young adults.

The World Communications Day Awards Ceremony was a great day that I'll never forget.

Editor's Note: World Communications Day is recognized by the Holy Father each year to highlight the role of communications in uniting society and promoting the common good. This year's theme is "New Technologies, New Relationships, Promoting a Culture of Respect, Dialogue and Friendship."

Students Blossom in Faith during May

May brought in a level of spiritual excitement to the students and parishioners at St John Vianney Catholic School and Church.

*Article by: Caley
School: St. John Vianney
Posted: May 19, 2009*

For the 101 newly confirmed young people, the confirmation Mass and its celebrant, Bishop PierreAntoine Paulo from Haiti, were truly unique.



As one
of the

St. John Vianney confirmation sponsors lead their confirmandi into Mass with Bishop Paulo from Haiti.

confirmandi, I believe the Mass made me feel part of the Universal Church. Bishop Paulo was so different from what I am used to. He had such a meaningful message about the gifts of the Holy Spirit and my role in the worldwide Church.

The Bishop connected our Church with his Church in Haiti showing us that the Church family is universal. It made me feel special as he confirmed me. Further, I knew I was surrounded by many people who cared about me, including my catechist and sponsor. Both women gave me great perspective and showed me how to share the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit with others.

Eighth grade student, Katie, added, "I am so glad to finally be confirmed after all the preparation and excitement leading up to this day! I will always remember it and Bishop Paulo."

The school's spiritual celebrations continued with the May Crowning of Mary by St. John Vianney first grade students on May 6. Seventy students presented Mary with flowers and crowned her with a ring of flowers. Many of these same young people also gave the readings and participated in

many other parts of the Mass that day.



“It was so much fun to dress up and bring

A St. John Vianney Catholic School first grader prays after the May crowning of Mary.

flowers to Mary,” said Paige.

When I took part in this tradition eight years ago, I remember singing the Ave Maria and learning all about Mary.

May brings many other special events to the St. John Vianney School and Church community, including First Holy Communion, International Day, and the Florida Fair.

Each of these events ties the school, the Church, and the participants to our faith. Each event is celebrated with a special Mass, each is really looked forward to, and each is prepared for by the students and teachers in the school and Church.

On May 9, over one hundred young people received their First Holy Communion. The second graders of the school spent the year preparing for this great event in their faith journey both in school and during evening Communion classes with the entire Church community. The Wednesday after receiving their First Holy Communion, the school's second graders felt like the “big kids” when they received the Eucharist with the rest of the school's faithful.

“We are really blessed and lucky to belong to such a faith-filled community. We have so many opportunities to share and express our faith,” said 8th grader Emily. I agree.

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