



GOOD WORKS

Worldwide Mission of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur

COLLABORATION IN EDUCATION

PROMISES TO KEEP

Founder's Day this year at St. Julie High School in Woolton, Liverpool, England evolved into a unique celebration, led by the school chaplain, Mr. Mike Anderson. Sr. Margaret Walsh, SNDdeN Chairperson of the Board of Governors, welcomed the students, administrators and faculty to an important assembly at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King. Kate McCourt, a Deputy Head Teacher, introduced the 1804 Society, a mission and leadership organization named for the founding date of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. Words, song and dance focused on continuing the educational legacy of St. Julie Billiart on this 200th anniversary of her death, and beyond.

Passing the Baton

The assembly seized the image of “picking up and passing the baton” in a *relay race* to pass on Julie's spirit to one another and to others in our time. This symbol of *running the race*, as St. Paul reminds us, symbolized for the student body a way of working as a team to reach a goal together in continuing the Mission of St. Julie. The school community made a commitment to proclaim God's goodness to this generation and the next.

In a symbolic ceremony of “picking up and passing the baton,” the entire student body, over 1000 students, and their administrators, faculty and staff made public promises in a moving ceremony at the school. Two students invited all to stand and to respond



in promises to carry on the work of St. Julie. Libby announced the ceremony in reminding the assembly of the significance of this year.

Then, Savannah, the head student, led the ceremony of promises:

Will you open your heart as wide as the world?

Response: **I will!**

Will you be an angel of peace?

Response: **I will!**

Will you stand tall as sunflowers as an example to others?

Response: **I will!**

Will you be a courageous soul and stand up against wrongdoing?

Response: **I will!**

Will you serve the good God well with much liberty of spirit?

Response: **I will!**

Will you follow the example of the Sisters of Notre Dame?

Response: **I will!**

Will you pick up the baton and continue the legacy of St. Julie?

Response: **I will!**

The Deputy Principal, Mr. Tony Costello reminded the students that these are big promises. He then asked the students to pray together for the grace of keeping these promises and to ask, as St. Julie did, for Mary's intercession. The commitment ceremony concluded as the entire assembly prayed together a *Hail Mary*, followed by *St. Julie, pray for us, protect us and bless us!* The Head Teacher, Mr. Tim Alderman congratulated all involved in this inspiring programme and moving celebration.

Additional Photographs and video footage are available online from **St. Julie's High School** in Woolton, Liverpool, England.

[http://www.stjulies.org.uk/news/1323/371/Founders-Day-Celebration/d,new_detail.html]