

# Class makes memorable field trip

Last month, the eighth-grade class at St. Augustine of Canterbury School, Kendall Park, had an extraordinary experience thanks to Joan Felli, a member of St. Augustine of Canterbury Parish.

Together with their principal, vice principal and parent chaperones, they visited the United Nations headquarters in New York City and met U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon. Felli, who is the secretary to the secretary general, was able to facilitate the meeting.

During the meeting, Ban appeared to be very relaxed and unhurried. He spoke to the students about “the three pillars” of the UN — in the distinct areas of Human Rights, Peace and Security, and Development — and observed that the Church’s mission often runs parallel to the mission of the U.N.

Ban mentioned that he had met Pope Francis a number of times and he praised the Holy Father’s recent encyclical, *Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home*, written for all on the care of God’s creation. Before leaving, he shook everyone’s hand.

The St. Augustine group enjoyed a 15-minute break and a visit to the gift shop before touring the U.N. building in the afternoon.

In addition to entering some of the large conference rooms where international meetings take place, they saw a statue of St. Agnes, which was recovered from a cathedral in Nagasaki, Japan, following the atomic bombing there and the beautiful “Golden Rule” mosaic — a gift to the U.N. from the United States, which is based on a work by American artist Norman Rockwell.

— Erin Friedlander



Left, from left, Religious Teachers Filippini Sister Mary Louise Shulas, principal, St. Augustine of Canterbury School, Kendall Park; Edward Modzelewski, vice principal; and Joan Felli, a member of St. Augustine of Canterbury Parish who works as secretary to United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, pose for a photo. Felli helped facilitate a meeting by Ki-moon with the visiting St. Augustine staff, chaperones and students. Below, United Nations General Secretary Ban Ki-moon, center, poses with the eighth-grade class at St. Augustine of Canterbury School, Kendall Park; Sister Mary Louise (on Ki-moon’s left), and Modzelewski (second row, left).

— United Nations staff photos

