**Call to Prayer and Action**

By Molly Buccola

Our dear Priory monks celebrate mass every morning in the Chapel, praying for our extended school community and world at large. Throughout the half hour, in that quiet sacred space, they and all who choose to participate, share moments of stillness and peace. As individuals, participants honor God’s presence in their hearts, and entertain moments of calm in their lives. As a community, their spiritual practice is more than a sum of its parts. The daily practice is pregnant with deep prayers for peace and justice. One prayer from Thursday’s mass continues to ring in my mind and heart. **“May we hear God’s voice. Grant us the wisdom to discern moments we are called to prayer and moments we are called to action. Help us to live in peace and strive for justice. “**

This week was packed with concern for peace and action for justice. Our upper school students spent much of the week off campus, volunteering with organizations that aim to support our community. And our nation spent much of the week witnessing a government transition. These events call for exhausting physical work and emotional processing. As individuals in a complicated world, we are left wondering what to do.

**“May we hear God’s voice. Grant us the wisdom to discern moments we are called to prayer and moments we are called to action. Help us to live in peace and strive for justice. “** We are each unique beings with different strengths, talents, relationships and connections with the Divine. Each individual is empowered with his/her own calling and given unique tools to live in peace and strive for justice.

How do we know when we are called to prayer and when we are called to act? It is our responsibility as beings to listen to the yearning for calm and peace in our hearts. It is our responsibility to get to know and love ourselves, to foster moments of silence in our individual lives. In these moments, we will honor God’s presence and know when we are called to act for justice. As a community of individuals, our spiritual practice is more than a sum of its parts. As a community of individuals, our prayers of peace and action for justice are more than a sum of its parts. As Benedictines have done for over 1500 years, we will gather as a community who deeply believes that each individual is created with a sense of peace and deserves a just world.