

私たちは中学1年生の時から持続可能な開発目標 SDGsについて、英語劇を上演するなど、学びを深めてきました。高校生になり、「共生」について考え、難民・移民問題や、国連の働きについて事前研修に取り組みました。

2019年2月の国連研修では、聖心会が国連にもっている NGO での研修を受け、日本政府代表部(職員の卒業生にもお会いしました。)や国連広報局を訪問し、SDGsを促進するための「地域から世界へ」をテーマとする国連広報局の市民社会報告会議や、経済的平等を目指す市民社会フォーラムに参加 しました。そして、難民・移民問題に取り組む国連 NGO スタッフや、国連開発計画の方々からお話を伺いました。どれも広い範囲にわたる深い内容の熱のこもったもので、気候変動や貧困がどのように問題をもたらし、教育がどんなに大切かを学びました。そして私たち若い世代が世界の問題の解決にどんなに必要とされているかを知り、間違い、失敗を恐れず、どんどん色々な問題に取り組んでいこうと思いました。

ずっとお世話して下さったシスターホッフエル、聖心の教育の使命と国連が同じだと教えて下さったシスタースミスや、大歓迎して下さったニューヨークの聖心の先生方や生徒の皆さん、一緒に授業を受け、ボランティア活動やホームステイを体験させて下さったホストシスター達には同じ聖心の家族の温かさを味わいました。

最後にエリス島の移民博物館で当時の移民の苦しい生活を思い、グラウンドゼロで平和の祈りを捧げました。

毎晩の振り返りと分かち合いが私たちを育ててくれた研修でした。

この研修を支えて下さった全ての方に感謝します。

Our UN Study Tour

We, the 10th graders of Sapporo Sacred Heart High School, participated in the 5th United Nations Study Tour in New York from February 11 to 18 2019. In order to participate in this trip, we studied about refugees, human migration, the UN, the UNHCR and the USA. We also conducted research, shared our results, and then posed nine questions we hoped to find answers to. On Feb. 11, we arrived in New York and were welcomed by Sr. Gwen Hoeffel, who chaperoned us the entire time.



On Feb. 12, we visited Sr. Sheila Smith, a representative of UNNGO's "Society of the Sacred Heart at the UN" who arranged our schedule and held a workshop for us on the UN. She told us about the Society of the Sacred Heart's mission, which mirrors that of the UN. We learned in detail about world poverty and refugees, including information we wouldn't have been able to get from our previous

studies. We also heard about her experiences working with the indigenous people in Canada.

After that, we visited the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations. We had a lecture about Japan's approach to SDGs and the future by Mr. Kato, the Counselor there. He led an activity for students like us to join. Following that, we were able to meet Ms. Shinme, a graduate of our school.



The last place we went to on this day was St. Patrick's Cathedral, which was built by migrants from Ireland. They worked very hard donating their time and money over many years. to build the cathedral. Many people were there praying in this magnificent cathedral. We prayed there, too.

On our 2nd day, we were welcomed very warmly by Dr. Ciancaglini and the teachers and students



at the Convent of the Sacred Heart 91st Street, NY. We felt so happy to be the members of the Sacred Heart family. It felt like a homecoming.

We gained valuable experiences volunteering at the ABC foundation (a nursery for the children in Harlem) with our host sisters,

taking classes, and enjoying a home stay.



On the 3rd day, one of the panelists from the Civil Society briefing by the UN Department of Global Communications, a Japanese girl at United Nations International School, gave a report on her activities in the Environmental Club. At this session, we found some new approaches to what students can do.

Ms. Teresa Blumenstein, from the NGO Committee on Migration on the UN Global Compact on Migration and Climate-induced Migration, gave us a presentation. We learned that the number of refugees caused by climate change is increasing more than those caused by war.

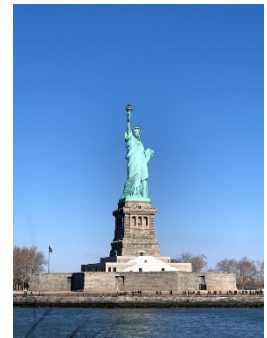
On the 4th day of the trip, Mr. Felipe Queipo from the UN Department of Global Communications told us about the mission of the United Nations and SDGs. He also taught us about the three elements of education and the necessity of true education and actions to improve future society and environment.



Then we attended the UN Commission on Social Development and Civil Society Forum, which addressed the challenges of equalities and social inclusion. Everyone expressed their own opinions regardless of age or gender. We felt it was a true expression of “Civil Society”.

We were permitted to ask Mr. Kishimori from the office of the United Nations Development Programme our nine questions. We learned how to aim for multicultural symbiosis.

On the 5th day, we went to Ellis Island. It is said that two out of every five Americans have ancestors who entered the US through Ellis Island. After that we visited Ground Zero, where the World Trade Center collapsed during 9.11. There was a huge memorial there, and a fountain which represents the tears of bereaved family members and the victims. Afterwards, we went to St. Malachy Church and reflected on the day, sharing our thoughts at the wrap up dinner at a restaurant called Pam’s Real Thai.



One thing we learned in particular was about the importance of advance learning. A second was the importance of curiosity, which entails having the heart and imagination to enjoy exploring the world. These words were spoken to us by Mr. Kishimori said they really impressed us. He also said that because we don’t have the answers to various problems, we must strive to continue to think about the unknown and learn through trial and error.

A third thing we learned about was the importance of reflection and sharing. During our trip, we shared our reflections about the day every evening. We recognized that the more we reflected on our experiences, the deeper our learning became. And by listening to the reflections of others, we noticed things that we may have forgotten or not noticed at all.

A fourth lesson we learned was the necessity for young people to be positively involved in the world. Mr. Felipe, who works in the UN Department of Global Communications, told us that the UN needs young people more than ever. We realized that we are vital to the UN, a huge global organization, and that we must take action. Mr. Felipe also said that education at home, at school or in the

community and through media is vital. We will never forget his words.

The final thing we learned was the importance of visiting the actual spot where important events have occurred.

We thought of five action plans from what we learned. Here are two of them.

First, we will distribute pamphlets which we've translated into Japanese.

This was Sr. Smith's idea. We asked her what action can we take immediately, and she answered that we should make the SDGs pamphlets available to Japanese people who don't speak English. Once we have done that we'll distribute them at events to which we hope many people will attend.

Secondly, we'll go to an elementary schools near our school and teach the students about SDGs, refugees, and immigrants. This should be both fun and easy considering we've actually gone to the UN and attended UN sessions. We also went to many places we wouldn't usually have gone to.

We think it's important to teach Japanese children about such issues and to encourage as many people as possible should think seriously about them.

We thank God for the gift of this wonderful opportunity and we will keep everyone who welcomed us, taught us, and supported us in our prayers.

