



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ACADEMY
Since 1883

Sponsored by the Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose

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Press Release

Students Reflect on Inauguration. "It Was a Celebration to Honor President Obama and Also a Celebration of Hope and Change."

In the early morning hours of January 20th, five students from Immaculate Conception Academy (ICA), an all girl's Catholic high school in San Francisco's Mission District, took their places at the reflecting pool in Washington DC with tens of thousands of others--a sea of diversity of people. In chilly 19 degree weather, all were gathering in expectation. "We were all there on a mission of hope and change," said one student.

As the ICA students stood shoulder to shoulder with so many other Americans, they expressed what an incredible moment it was. Senior, Kim Rodriguez became emotional as President Obama delivered his speech and spoke of a time when African Americans could not be served in restaurants. She understood the hardships that many minorities have endured, including her own family, in pursuit of the American Dream.

Obama's speech renewed Kim's belief that America's dream is not lost. The ICA girls were inspired "to pick themselves up, dust themselves off" and work hard to be the voice of change, hope and dedication that President Obama challenged them and thousands of others to be on that historic day.

Sponsored since 1883 by the Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose, Immaculate Conception Academy is located at 24th and Guerrero Streets.

Interviews are available upon request.