**MASS OF PADRE PIO**…continued

Some students, like sophomore Zoe Henderson, wanted to go out of pure curiosity.  Freshman Leslie Ramos was also interested because she wants to be a cardio-thoracic surgeon when she grows up and "thought it would be cool to see a heart and even cooler because it is a saint's heart." Others were drawn in by the reputation of the saint.  Sophomore Aidan Lena plans on using Pio as his confirmation name and senior Eryn McGuinness, who recently went on a school trip to Paris and Rome, visited a Capuchin church in Italy where she was "completely amazed at his holiness."  However excited they may have been, there was nothing that could prepare them for the experience of the Mass and the veneration of Padre Pio's heart

This was the first veneration Mass for sophomore Sam Mather and it "was unlike anything [he] ever felt before."   Some students grew teary eyed while some felt their own hearts racing.  Sophomore Emma Powell "felt closer to God" in the presence of the heart.  According to sophomore Brady Quinn, he could "sincerely feel the presence of the heart during the veneration."  One thing all of the students agreed upon was that this was truly a beautiful once in a lifetime experience.