MNSON holds 'Blessing of Hands' ceremony for nursing students

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Junior class nursing students, accelerated program nursing students and dietetic interns at Loyola University Chicago Marcella Niehoff School of Nursing were given a day for reflection in a Dedication to the Profession ceremony and reception on Oct. 20 at the school’s Lake Shore campus in Chicago.

The event, which replaced the former capping ceremony, was an opportunity for students to reflect and pledge themselves to their chosen studies and the healthcare profession, according to a news release.

The faculty presided over the ceremony and blessed the hands of students and healthcare professionals within the audience.

"It was a beautiful day at Madonna della Strada [Chapel] as the nursing and dietetic students participated in a 'Blessing of the Hands' tradition where they were reminded of the important work in which those hands will be involved as they enter the healthcare profession," Vicki Keough, APRN-BC, PhD, ACNP, FAAN, dean and professor, said in the release.

After the Madonna della Strada Chapel ceremony, the school hosted a reception in the Donovan Reading Room to celebrate the occasion with students, families, guests, alumni, faculty and staff.

Student representatives from the traditional and accelerated nursing programs and dietetic interns spoke about symbolic aspects of the ceremony and the healthcare profession.

They also provided reflections on their student experiences and their decision to join the school and healthcare communities.

"Seeing everyone come together and unite over our passion for nursing was very touching," Kara Podjasek, junior class president, said in the release.

"I will never forget how privileged I am to be part of such an amazing nursing program."