The Pope John Paul II High School Model United Nations Team participated in the Arkansas Model United Nations (AMUN) conference from Nov. 18-20. For their third conference of the semester, the team earned 31 awards, raising their eight-year total to 276 awards. On Nov. 18, a full bus with 54 JPII students traveled to Conway, Arkansas to participate in the 45th Annual Arkansas Model UN Conference sponsored by the University of Central Arkansas. This year’s conference included more than 370 students from 20 high schools from Arkansas, Mississippi and Tennessee.

The students were lead by College Model UN Advisor Paul Saboe, parent chaperone Arleen Zola, and Head elegates Katie Odell, Estonia; Olivia Lovell, Finland; Eric Stolz, Iran; Gina Botisko, Ireland; Courtney O’Connor, Malaysia; Emily McRen, Poland; Megan Mihaliak, Slovakia; Raina Patel, Ukraine; and Andrew Jefferies, United Kingdom. This group included 19 students who were new to the college model UN team and marked the largest team that JPII has ever assembled for a model UN conference.

During the two-day conference, the students simulated several UN committees and were actively involved in their committees, helping to write and sponsor 18 resolutions. Ally Harpootlian, Abby Matheny, Maggie Musacchio, Autumn Folse, Tommy Joe Bednar, Wilhelm Bunjor, Julia Ross, Taylor Dunn, Avery Story, Andrew Jefferies, Carlee Pritchard, Spencer Frost, Alex Abdo, Mack Mayberry and Joe McLaughlin all saw one or more of their resolutions approved by their fellow delegates.

In addition, Bryan Melcher was elected president of the International Court of Justice to preside over the court's final case, which is the seventh time in a row that a JPII student was elected to fill this position. Freshmen Caleb Pracht
was elected vice president of the court. The students received 31 awards, more than any other school and the most awards the JPII students have ever won at a single conference. Pope John Paul II received five awards for best position papers. JPII countries recognized for this achievement included the United Kingdom, Maggie Musacchio, Tommy Joe Bednar, Julia Ross, Wilhelm Bunjor, Avery Story, Andrew Jefferies, Bryan Melcher and Rob Wieber; Iran, Ally Harpootlian, Scotty Wright, Will Vanderslice, Eric Stolz and Natalie Semrow; Malaysia, Sarah Missimer, Jenna Galvin, Christian Iversen, Ryan Phillips, Courtney O'Connor and Joe McLaughlin; Finland, Olivia Lovell, Sarah Galvin, Taylor Dunn, Shaughn Phillips and Phillip Bradley; and Poland, Abby Fordham, Alex Price, Emily McRen, Jon dams, Michael Resha and Carlee Pritchard.

Seven students were selected by their fellow committee members for the prestigious (Rapporteur) award, including Ally Harpootlian, Tommy Joe Bednar, Julia Ross, Wilhelm Bunjor, Avery Story, Andrew Jefferies and Bryan Melcher. These students accounted for seven of the nine students recognized at the conference with this honor, more than any other school. Each received a special engraved gavel and gave a report before the entire General Assembly regarding their committee's progress during the conference.

Numerous students were recognized individually for their public speaking skills by the conference administrators. Tommy Joe Bednar, Julia Ross, Avery Story, and Mack Mayberry earned outstanding delegate awards and an engraved gavel, while Jose Aguilar, Taylor Dunn, Ryan Phillips, Alex Abdo, Shaughn Phillips, Eric Stolz, Maggie Musacchio, Ally Harpootlian, Andrew Jefferies, Caleb Pracht, Bryan Melcher and Rob Wieber accounted for JPII's 12 outstanding delegate honorable mention awards. In addition, Pope John Paul II earned an honorable mention best delegation award for Iran and Finland, and for the second year in a row earned the highest conference honor, the overall best delegation plaque, for the United Kingdom. These awards are given to the delegations that best represented the character of their country in all aspects of the conference activities. Overall, about two thirds of JPII's delegation received one or more awards at this conference.