

2018 Honors Rolling In

Aquin State Scholars



Mary Fellers Georgia James Kiersten Koch Cassandra Martin Sedona Smith

Five Aquin Central Catholic Junior/Senior High School seniors have been recognized as Illinois State Scholars. They are Mary Fellers, Georgia James, Kiersten Koch, Cassandra Martin and Sedona Smith.

Students listed among Illinois State Scholars

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) recently named State Scholars in honor of their outstanding academic achievement. The program has honored more than 20,000 students since the designation was introduced in 1958. ISAC states that approximately the top 10 percent of graduates from approved high schools are announced as State Scholars each year. There is no monetary award with the scholar status.



Eight Rosary Athletes Commit to Play in College

Eight Rosary athletes in the Class of 2018 have committed to continue their sport at the college level, signing National Letters of Intent. They are (from left) Maya Sullivan, who will play volleyball for the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Fla.; Brooke Delahanty, cross country and track, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign; Maura VanBogaert, softball, Franciscan University of Steubenville in Ohio; Julianne Hutchi-

son, soccer, Jacksonville University, Jacksonville, Fla.; Samantha Laurich, swimming, Grand Valley State University, Allendale, Mich.; Camryn Streid, swimming, University of Cincinnati in Ohio; Mackenzie Adkins, swimming, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo.; Claire Hengesbaugh, cross country and track, Loyola University, Chi-



Six Marmion Seniors sign National Letters of Intent

Six of Aurora's Marmion Academy student-athletes signed national letters of intent to play on the collegiate level. They are (from left) seniors Seth Groom, who will attend the University of Iowa, be on the track and field team, and study law and criminology; Nate Jimenez, Michigan State University, wrestling, food industry management; William Kamps, University of Pennsylvania, swimming, pre-law; Jack Kirtley, University of Washington, rowing, business administration; Michael Ronzone, University of Kansas, cross country and track, business and exercise science; and Chase Stanke, University of Minnesota, baseball, finance.

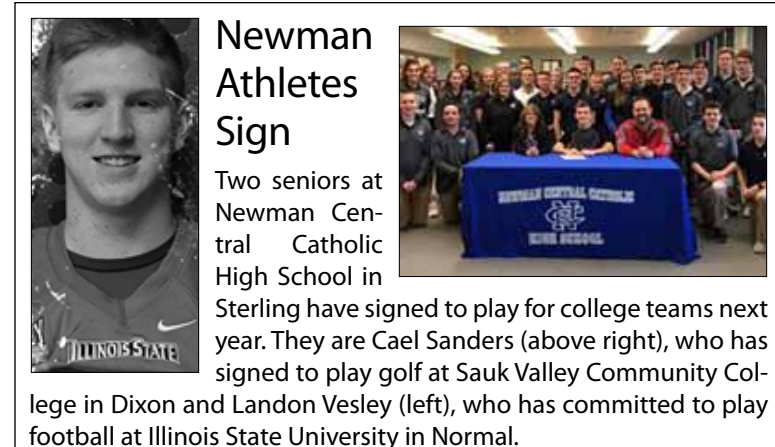
Boylan State Scholars

At Boylan Central Catholic High School in Rockford, 40 students of the Class of 2018 have been recognized as Illinois State Scholars. They are: Benjamin Ambrose, Anthony Anderson, Leighton Barnes, Jacob Bennett, Conor Bischel, Leah Boccignone, Hannah Breault, William Brown, Quinn Calkins, Natalie Chung, Megan Crouch, Samantha Cyborski, Joseph Delia, Amanda Didier, Nathan Droessler, Morgan Fischer, Juan Pablo Gomez, Anastasia Hatfield, Jessica Hindenburg, Lauren Honkamp, Matthew Horning, Kelsey Hughes, Elaina Johnson, Lily Johnston, Benjamin Kies, William Kinczewski, Adrienne Kisting, Alexander Klein, Grace McLaughlin, Emily Miller, Adam Newton, Catherine O'Grady, Michael Perino, Bailey Peterson, Jane Reesor, Catherine Reynolds, Sophia Sankaran, Nikolas Suyko, Matthew Thomas, Alexia Vant.



Marian State Scholars

Marian Central Catholic High School in Woodstock has 44 seniors among Illinois State Scholars. They are (from left, first row) Gabrielle Castro, Sydney Leidig, Jenna Ornas, Maranda Donaldson, Sarah Wilson, Mariah White, (second row) Alexis Richter, Katrina Dionela, Shelby Truckenbrod, Kendra Meintz, Anastasia Wand, Delaney McCann, Monika Hess, (third row) Hannah Villont, Mallory Gehrig, Katherine Littner, Carolina Kirwan, Alexa Morris, Madelyn Merryman, G. Knudsen, (fourth row) Ian Brezski, Traison Liedrich, Michael Hucek, James Lydon, Nicholas Caliendo, John Hintz, Joseph Paffrath, (fifth row) Jacob Levendowski, Colin Stoll, Kevin Santopadre, Casey Wells, Matthew Benigni, Tyler Gillum, John Cieslak, (sixth row) Alexander Golembiewski, Harrison Beck, Benjamin Keller, Kevin Herbst, Dylan Kuster, Dante Bucci, Daniel Serdar, (not pictured) Victoria Johnson, Ryan St. Clair, and Barbara Yerkes.



Newman Athletes Sign

Two seniors at Newman Central Catholic High School in Sterling have signed to play for college teams next year. They are Cael Sanders (above right), who has signed to play golf at Sauk Valley Community College in Dixon and Landon Vesley (left), who has committed to play football at Illinois State University in Normal.

VOCATION CORNER

Vocations Corner: Forging Ourselves!



By FATHER KEITH ROMKE | Vocations Director

One of the most powerful actions that we can perform in our lives is forgiveness.

When we hold onto things rather than letting them go, all they do is hold us down. This of course makes sense in regards to dealing with hurts that others have caused us, but do we ever think about the need to forgive ourselves?

So often we hold on to weaknesses from the past or to failures from long ago, and these memories keep us from having the confidence that we need so that we can step out in faith and to go when God is calling us to go. It's as if we've fallen down again and again, and we're afraid to get back up because we fear that

we'll simply fall again.

Well, it's probably true that we will fall again, but as long as you take a few steps forward (even just one step makes a difference!) then it's worth all of the effort.

On the other hand, if we stay down, we have a 0 percent chance of ending up where God is calling us, and if we don't try to follow, then we'll most likely not find the peace and the joy that we all seek.

So today, do what you need to do to forgive yourself, and let God pick you back up. A great resource for this is the sacrament of confession, when we can be assured that God wipes it all away.

Since God wipes it all away, we need to try to do the same in our hearts and minds!

Marmion Senior Earns Eagle Scout Honors

On Dec. 3, Sean-Paul Lorenz (second from right), a graduate of St. Peter School in Aurora and a Senior at Marmion Academy, received Boy Scouts highest rank of Eagle Scout. Only 4 percent of scouts attain this rank. Lorenz is a member of Boy Scout Troop 3 NECC. His Eagle project was beautify St. Peter School and put up a flag pole. He returned after the pole was in place for a flag raising ceremony (above).



Father Joachim Pastor (right), Principal Robert Williams, lay administrator Mary Elliott and the entire school attended the flag ceremony.

Update: Young adults gather for fellowship, learn ways to share faith

CHICAGO (CNS)—More than 8,000 people from around the country gathered at McCormick Place in Chicago in early January to gain the tools to share their faith with the world.

They were attending SLS18, a biennial conference sponsored by the Fellowship of Catholic University Students, known as FOCUS.

In the past, SLS, which stands for Student Leadership Summit, was limited to college students and FOCUS missionaries. The missionaries — who this year number 700 on 137 campuses in the U.S. and Europe — serve on college campuses, often in Newman centers, accompanying students on their faith journeys.

This year, SLS18 included lay ministers, parishioners, seminarians, men and women

religious, and others who minister in the wider church. Each group had its own track of workshops and everyone came together for Mass and keynote speeches. This year's emphasis was equipping participants with tools to evangelize.

Conferences, much like the international World Youth Days, help young adults see that Catholicism is broad and encompasses all people, said John Zimmer, vice president of apostolic development for FOCUS.

Fabian Pato, a freshman at Loyola University Chicago, said, "I kind of needed to see a little bit more in depth about Catholicism, more focused toward youthfulness," said Pato. "This was pretty enticing."



Students from the Diocese of Toledo, Ohio, look up Scripture passages on their cellphones during a group discussion Jan. 3 at a conference sponsored by the Fellowship of Catholic University Students in Chicago. More than 8,000 young adults from around the country gathered Jan. 2-6 for the SLS18 conference.