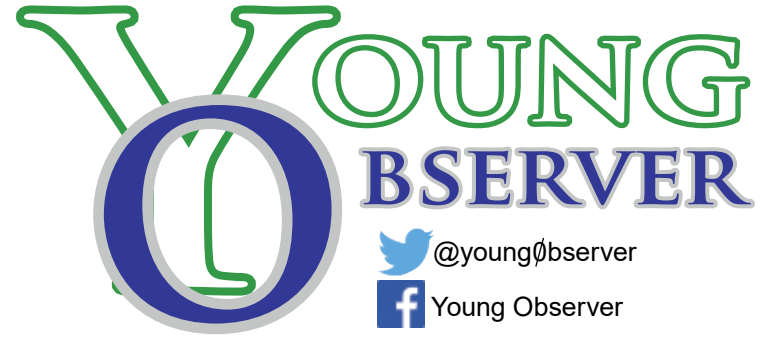


# Boylan artists help honor vets



**A**rt students and teachers from Boylan Central Catholic High School in Rockford and Belvidere North High School have joined together to restore a mural at Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 1461 in Belvidere ahead of Veteran's Day.

The mural, originally designed by Boylan's art department chair Missy



(Photo provided)  
A student touches up a VFW logo on the mural at Post 1461 in Belvidere.

Minardi (Class of 1997) in 2004 when she was a teacher at Belvidere High School, had faded over the years and was badly in need of a touch-up.

Because it was originally painted as a group project between Minardi, fellow art teacher Troy Yunk, and art students at Belvidere High School, Minardi envisioned a similar collaborative effort for the restoration.

Gathering nearly 20 art students and faculty from Boylan and Belvidere North high schools, where Yunk is now art department chair, Minardi led the eight-hour restoration of the mural.

In addition to touching-up the paint, Minardi, Yunk, and Boylan art teacher Claire Strominger worked with students to draw two additional Marines in the mural's central image of flag-raisers at Iwo Jima, which made the mural more historically accurate.

Post 1461 is especially meaningful to Minardi, whose grandfather, Raymond



(Photo provided)  
Student artists from Boylan Central Catholic High School in Rockford pose for a photo.

L. Cunningham, was a member.

"I can't think of a better way to express my gratitude (to veterans) than by uniting students from across the region to create a piece of art that commemorates the pride and patriotism of the men and women who serve our country," she said.

The mural was initially commissioned to bring life to a boarded-up window

on an exterior wall of the Post. It was dedicated on Veteran's Day in 2004.

"We are incredibly thankful to the students from Boylan and Belvidere North for volunteering their time and talent to restore our mural," said VFW Post 1461 commander, Greg Kelm.

The mural was rededicated on Nov. 11 after the Belvidere Veteran's Day parade.

## VOCATION CORNER

# We need to pay attention



By FATHER JOHN MCNAMARA  
Assistant  
Vocations  
Director

One of the obvious things about life is that we learn from our personal experiences.

Jesus says in the Gospel this Sunday, "Learn a lesson from the fig tree. When its branch becomes tender and sprouts leaves, you know that summer is near." Then He goes on to say, "In the same way, when you see these things happening, know that He is near, at the gates."

Our lives are filled with lessons. This simple reality invites us to be extra attentive to all the things happening around us because these help us to understand our calling and mission in life.

Prior to becoming a priest I cooked in restaurants and catering companies, and during this time I often encountered and was encouraged by people to look at the signs in my life that pointed towards being a priest.

God put people in my life who were attentive to what I needed to be attentive to. I will leave us with this — be attentive to what is happening in your life. There is a lesson and meaning for our life to be discovered.



(Photo provided)

## Diocesan Seminarians Gather for Fun

Rockford seminarians from St. John Vianney and St. Gregory the Great college seminaries met up for fraternity time at the Conception Seminary soccer and volleyball tournament Oct. 13-14 in Missouri. Seminarians are (from left) Ben Pfundstein, Ted Pfundstein, Connor Orabutt, Tim Schroder, Scotty Girolamo, Jacob Timm and Bailey Peterson.

Think you have a vocation? Write to [kmanno@rockforddiocese.org](mailto:kmanno@rockforddiocese.org)