



(Photo provided)

Elgin St. Ed state scholars

Elgin St. Edward Central Catholic High School students named 2019-20 Illinois State Scholars are (not in order) Mark Chammany, Katelyn Davidson, Kathleen Ellsworth, Gabriella Estes, Thomas Gallagher, Sean Hancock, Liam Jackson, Erin Kremer, Elijah Nordan, Zachary Olenek, Reanna Pedres, Maelle Quartetti, Christopher Rosland, Christopher Semler, and Anna Tyrawa.



(Photo provided)

Rockford Boylan state scholars

Rockford's Boylan Central Catholic High School 2019 Illinois State Scholars are (from left, first row) Celine Feria, Faith Moss, Amber Golich, Heather Hagedorn, Isabella Marquetti, Mackenzie Smith and Kiana Montalvo, (second row) Vanessa Arreguin, Erin Bishop, Abigail Foes, Elisabeth Frost, Evan Weightman, Megan Schroeder, Carly Pyzynski, (third row) Matthew Priola, Gabriel Debenedetto, Nicholas Fuller, Patrick Sweeney, Austin Christianson, Erik Bonelli, Jack Peterson, (fourth row) Nicolas Barcellona, Thomas Brown, Gabriel Campos, Nicholas Haggstad, Brady Wright and Kyle Gomel.

VOCATION CORNER

Advice from MLK



By FATHER MANUEL GOMEZ
Assistant Vocations Director

On Oct. 26, 1967, the Baptist minister and leader of the civil rights movement, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., delivered a very powerful and touching message to students at Barratt Junior High School in Philadelphia. It was called "What Is Your Life's Blueprint?"

His message encouraged students to give the best of themselves in all things they do. I think, when we reflect about our own vocation, we should be confident that any decision made is supported by God's grace, and so we should give ourselves 100 percent in whatever we do.

Here are some excerpts from his famous speech:

"When you discover what you will be in your life, set out to do it as if God Almighty called you at this particular moment in history to do it. Don't just set out to do a good job. Set out to do such a good job that the living, the dead or the unborn couldn't do it any better..."

"...If it falls to your lot to be a street sweeper, sweep streets like Michelangelo painted pictures. Sweep streets like Beethoven composed music. Sweep streets like Leontyne Price sings before the Metropolitan Opera. And sweep streets like Shakespeare wrote poetry. Sweep streets so well that all the hosts of Heaven and Earth will have to pause and say, 'Here lived a great street sweeper who swept his job well.'"

"...If you can't be a pine on the top of the hill, be a scrub in the valley. But be the best little scrub on the side of the hill. Be a bush if you can't be a tree. If you can't be a highway, just be a trail. If you can't be the sun, be a star. For it isn't by size that you win or you fail. Be the best of whatever you are."

Young Rockford Woman Makes First Vows

By SISTER MOLLY HEINE, FMA

I grew up in a Catholic family who went to grandma and grandpa's house every Sunday after Mass. My parents encouraged my siblings and me to be open to whatever vocation God calls us, but the thought of being a sister never crossed my mind. I wanted to be married like my parents and have a big family of my own because I saw how happy my parents were.

When I was 14 years old, my younger sister Sara and I attended St. Therese Vocation Camp in our Diocese of Rockford. Sisters from different orders came together and we spent a few days with them so we could get to know them and see that sisters were like regular people.

It was there that I met two Salesian Sisters of St. John Bosco, formally known as the Daughters of Mary Help

of Christians. They had something about them that really attracted me.

When I returned home, I kept in contact with the Salesian Sisters. When I was in high school, a friend of mine was going to go to New Jersey for a "Come and See" visit with them. I thought about it and decided to go and see what life as a sister looked like.

I spent about a week with the sisters

and I felt at home, but part of me did not want to accept that God was calling me to this life. I was only 15! So, how could I possibly know that God wanted me to be a sister?!

After the "Come and See," I started dating this guy that I really liked, and I thought that would make

me forget about being a sister. In my mind I thought that maybe God would see how happy I was and take away the thought of being a sister. But it didn't work.

In my heart I wanted more, and the thought of being a sister kept tugging at my heart. Before graduating high school, I went to visit the Salesian sisters on my own, and I felt at home again. In my heart I just knew that this was where God wanted me, and I couldn't deny it.

After graduating from high school and working for a year and spending time with my family, I entered as an aspirant with the Salesian Sisters of St. John Bosco in August 2014. After four years of initial formation, on Aug. 5, 2018, I made my first profession of vows and became a Daughter of Mary Help of Christians.

I am so happy that God has called me to this vocation. I may not have my own children, but I love and pray for every young person I encounter because, being a sister, my love has no limits. I am grateful that God has called me to this life with the help of Our Lady in order to bring young people to Him.



(Photo provided)

Sr. Molly Heine, FMA, (center) is surrounded by family as she makes her first vows as a sister.