



VOCATION CORNER

Asking God for a promise



By FATHER SEAN GRISMER
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The first reading this weekend shows God giving a promise to Abraham, who at the time was named Abram. This was the promise: "Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can. Just so shall your descendants be."

God gave him a promise, that He (God) will make Abraham's descendants as numerous as the stars. That seems almost too big a promise. But here we are, descendants of Abraham.

Some would object but if you follow the genealogy of Matthew, it was from Abraham's line that Jesus was born and if we are members of His body, then we too can claim to be his descendants.

The amazing thing that this passage shows us, besides that, is this: before the hardships in life, God will often, if we listen, give to us a promise.

Then when Abraham has **one son**, God asks him to sacrifice that son.

Contradictory some would say, but it was a test, not just of Abraham's faith, but of his accepting of God's promise. He didn't arbitrarily trust God. He trusted in the promise that God made to him.

So when we go through Lent or go through life or if we are trying to discern our vocation in life and we get overwhelmed by the thought of the pain or difficulty that lies ahead, stop and ask God for a promise.

I think it is why so many men and women discerning religious life know not how hard it is going to be, but that God gives them, at the time they are thinking about the priesthood or religious life, a little bit of the joy of the life to be lived.

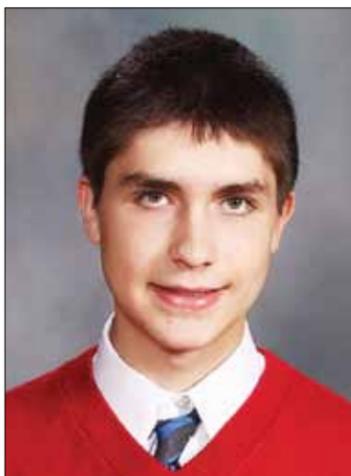
It is a simple but profound promise of the goodness of God.



(Photo provided)

Aurora Central student dances at museum

Abby Lyons of Aurora, a Mayan/Oneida Native American, dances at the opening reception for "Becoming: Transformations in American Indian Art" at Aurora University's Schingoethe Center Feb. 22. Lyons is a senior at Aurora Central Catholic High School. The exhibit is free to the public at the center, 1315 Prairie St. in Aurora, through April 26. Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesdays. Info: auartsandideas.com.



(Photo provided)

Marian senior is scholarship finalist

Joseph Noonan, a senior at Marian Central Catholic High School in Woodstock, is a finalist in the National Merit® Scholarship Program. He is one of 15,000 remaining after an 18-month process who may be selected for a scholarship between April and July.

Boylan players open with prayers

Members of the Boylan Lady Titans basketball team, led by Father David Finn, the school's spiritual advisor, say



(Photo provided)

the prayer of Our Lady of Mount Carmel before basketball games this year. In addition to showing their faith on the floor, they received blessed holy cards with the prayer. They also learned about the link between our Lady of Mount Carmel and the brown scapular, which shows the image of Our Lady and the Christ Child as they appeared to St. Simon Stock in 1251. They learned to obtain a blessing, they should wear the scapular, be chaste at each stage of life, and pray the rosary. Coach Paul Perrone asked Father Finn to offer the prayer with the players.



High school seniors have until **March 21** to apply for NINA's annual scholarship for future journalists.

Learn more at ninaonlinedotorg.wordpress.com.



(Photo provided)

Marmion boasts 39 state scholars

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) has named 37 Marmion Academy seniors Illinois State Scholars. These 37 seniors represent 26 percent of the Class of 2019. They are (not shown in order) Benjamin Ali, Jared Beltz, Keegan Bennett, Jack Brewster, Jacob Caceres, Henry Cella, Jacob Coffman, Brant DeMoss, Dillon Di Iorio, John English, Joseph Farrell, Nolan Fergus, Peter Ferraro, Ryan Fleck, Nathan Garrison, James Graft, Nicholas Greco, Greer Griffin, Gregory Gronwold, Mason Hartwegger, Spenser Heckman, Nathan Konen, Casey Lovejoy, Cameron Merker, Michael Murray, Michael Neff, Antonio Petrucci, Benjamin Powell, Andrew Ramm, Caleb Ritzheimer, Benjamin Saloga, Christian Schultz, Gaspare Spizzirri, Giancarlo Spizzirri, Quinn Sweeney, Nicholas Talarico, and Alexander Wilson.