



(Photo provided)

Woodstock Goes to Steubenville

Fifty high school students and nine chaperones attended a Steubenville youth conference in Rochester, Minn. This is an annual event for the parish youth, and it always proves to be an amazing experience where they deepen their relationship with Christ. The gathering is one of several "traveling conferences" from Franciscan University in Ohio.

Meet the Missionary

Annika Albrect

Home: Although she lived in North Aurora (where the parish is Blessed Sacrament), her family moved and she considers her home parish to be SS. Peter and Paul in Naperville.

Parish today: "I just moved out to serve at USC so I'm technically at Our Savior on USC's campus."

Schooling: She was home-schooled. She graduated in 2014 and went to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Professional sports: Volleyball in Nantes, France

First interest in mission work:

"I was involved with FOCUS-VC (Varsity Campus) on UN-L's campus, but never really thought it was something I would do. A few months ago the idea was brought up and something about it really excited me. I get to work with everything that interests me: the Church, people, and sports."

Support: "Yes! I can be supported through my website (easiest in my opinion). I'm looking for monthly supporters. My website: <https://www.focus.org/missionaries/annika-albrect>."



(Photo provided)

Mission: Varsity Catholic missionary at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles

"Athletes are in a unique situation and struggle with challenging academic and training schedules. Varsity Catholic missionaries can relate to student-athletes since we have had similar challenges. The highs are really high, and the lows are really low. When I was a student-athlete, it was refreshing to go to Bible study after a difficult practice and be reminded that my sport was not my true identity. As a missionary this fall, I look forward to encouraging athletes to know their identity as a daughter or son of God."

— Compiled by Sharon Boehlefeld



Dancing from the HEART



(CNS photo/Brandon Evans, The Criterion)

Catholic HEART Workcamp participants, Felicia Samuels and Sarah Pottorff, both of St. Catherine of Siena Parish in West Dundee, perform dance moves with a resident at the Little Sisters of the Poor's St. Augustine Home for the Aged in Indianapolis June 11.

Wimbledon champ carries confirmation gift to matches

Abbey Forbes, the 18-year-old winner of the junior girls doubles championship at Wimbledon, has kept an inspirational book in her tennis bag at recent competitions and for all seven Wimbledon matches.

The book, from her confirmation sponsor, Joan Monti, is a daily devotional called "Jesus Calling."

The best-seller was well-known to Monti and her friends. But it was completely new to Forbes, who was baptized Catholic as a baby and was just confirmed and received her first Communion April 20 at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Raleigh, N.C.

"I decided that I was going to keep that book in my tennis bag," Forbes said. "Every match. Every practice. I open it and I read the daily reading or confession. And I pray on it. It just keeps me connected to my faith while I am playing sports," she told *NC Catholics*, magazine of the Diocese of Raleigh.

The book was with her at the French Open in late May and in July at Wimbledon.

"I was so nervous ... excited. I really wanted to win," Forbes said about her feelings just before the final Wimbledon match with partner Savannah Broadus. "I was asking God for strength and grace and all of those things to be brought with me out onto the court ... and I asked him to be with me. That book is just my reminder."



(CNS photo/Kate Turgeon Watson, Diocese of Raleigh)

Joan Monti (left) and Abbey Forbes hold the trophy Forbes won at Wimbledon. Monti was Forbes' sponsor when she was confirmed and became a full member of the Catholic Church April 20 at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Raleigh, N.C.