



ACC Key Club needs socks

The Key Club at Aurora Central Catholic High School is sponsoring its third annual "Socktober" collection for the entire month of October.

They will be collecting new pairs of socks for all ages to donate to Hesus House, a homeless shelter that serves individuals and families in Aurora.

Socks are one of the most-needed, yet least-donated items of homeless shelters. Collection boxes are located in the school's main office, counselors' office and the library.

Scouts work on religious awards

Blackhawk Area Council Catholic scouts took part in an online meeting Sept. 19.

The Day of Recollection was for Boy Scouts working on their religious awards — Ad Altare Dei and Pope Pius XII.

A few scouts from the Three Fires Council joined the Blackhawk Area scouts.

The online gathering took the place of the annual religious retreat weekend due to COVID-19. It was a day to reflect, pray and spend time with friends.

Fun activities intermingled with prayer and reflection, including a question and answer session with Father Colin Easton, the scout chaplain, who also talked about his favorite saint.



Fathers Charles Warren (left, top photo) and Robert Blood take part in a cooking session with Catholic scouts on Sept. 19.



(Photos provided) Catholic scouts in the Rockford Diocese meet on Zoom instead of holding their usual Religious Retreat to work on religious badges, and make some goodies.

They cooked with Fathers Robert Blood and Charles Warren. All the scouts received the recipe in advance and made a microwavable cake in a mug.

They played a Catholic version of Jeopardy and had a scavenger hunt so they could stretch their legs.

They prayed, reflected and learned about their personal gifts, what holiness means, what justice is, and about the Holy Spirit.

Marmion students semifinalists in NMS competition



Ryan Bennett

Ryan Bennett, son of Kelly and Megan Bennett of Sugar Grove, and Nicholas Wilson, son of Thomas and Marisel Wilson of North Aurora, have been named semifinalists in the 66th annual National Merit Scholarship Program.

The academically talented seniors from Aurora's Marmion Academy will continue in the competition for one of 7,600 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$30 million that will be offered next spring.

Semifinalist status is based on scores on the 2019 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). The nationwide pool of approximately 16,000 Semifinalists, representing less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, includes the highest scoring students in each state.



(Photos provided) Nicholas Wilson

Young Batavia parishioner Breakthrough finalist

WHEATON—Gianni Petrillo of Holy Cross Parish in Batavia is among 15 finalists in the Breakthrough Junior Challenge. He is a senior at St. Francis High School here.

His video entry on the topic of dark matter was one of 5,600 from around the world.

"I was thrilled when I learned that I was a finalist in Breakthrough!" said Gianni. "I think I checked the website 20 times ..."

The 15 top-scoring finalist videos will be reviewed by the selection committee, which



(Photo provided) Gianni Petrillo

includes Dr. Mae Jemison and Scott Kelly, both former astronauts; Sal Khan, founder and CEO, Khan Academy; among others.

The winner will receive a \$250,000 college scholarship, and the winner's science teacher will win a \$50,000 prize. The winner's school will also receive a state-of-the-art science lab valued at \$100,000.

This year, due to the pandemic, the ceremony has been postponed and is now planned for March 2021.

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