

Giving with love

High school students around the diocese find ways to give in the midst of a pandemic



Woodstock Marian Central Catholic High School

Cody O'Neill, a 2009 Marian graduate, was a football player, wrestler, mentor, and everyone's friend during his time at Marian Central. Recently, he underwent a heart transplant and has a long road to recovery. His wife, Kelsey (Harding), class of 2011, is expecting a baby in January, caring for their 2-year-old daughter, three dogs, and her husband in the hospital, while being 12 hours from home with next to none of their belongings. For this year's Christmas Drive, Student Council adopted the O'Neill/Harding family to provide them a Hurricane Christmas. They collected donations Dec. 7-15 to purchase Christmas gifts for the family. Student Council members with a few items they collected are Katherine Strode, Courtney Sensabaugh, Lauren McNulty and Gretchen Gilmore.



Sterling Newman CCHS

Students at Newman Central Catholic High School in Sterling held Food Drive Fridays with different dress-down themes to collect items and money for delivery to eight area food banks. The themes were Class Color Wars where each class wore a different color and staff wore Newman blue; Cowboys vs. Aliens; Dressing through the Decades; and Scrabble, where students dressed as something that began with the first letter of their name.



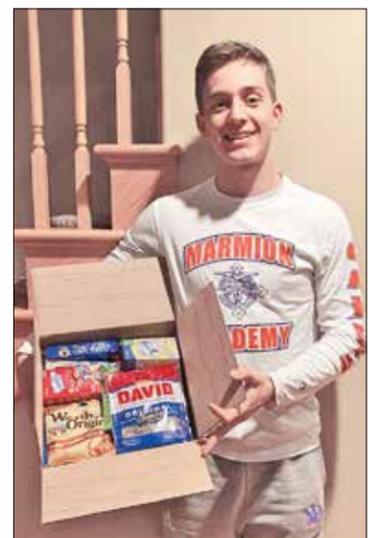
(Photos provided)

Newman students sort donations in the gym.



Aurora Marmion Academy

Marmion Academy students have been supporting military members through their Adopt a Soldier program. They have personally put together and sent care packages and letters of gratitude to soldiers who are serving in Kuwait. Among students who prepared care packages are (right from top) freshman Luke Sonetz, junior Anthony Kuceba and freshman Alex Pall.



Aurora Central Catholic High School

Each year, math teacher and Student Council moderator Ann Hanson challenges her students to help those who are in need. This year she requested help from all of the ACC students, faculty, and families. "Hanson's Angels 2020" (pandemic-style) were able to supply 10 children (newborn to 4 years) with luggage filled with clothes, books, toys, and personal items plus four huge bags of "extras" for Kane County CASA's Luggage of Love program. "I am always in awe of my students' generosity to my little 'challenge' but this year's response brought me to tears. Thank you to my beautiful students and the ACC community. I am humbled, honored, and truly blessed," Hanson said.

Watch for more high school giving next week



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