



High school seniors have until April 9 to apply for NINA's annual scholarship for future journalists.

Learn more at <https://ninaonlinedotorg.wordpress.com/2020-scholarship-rules/>.

The Observer and El Observador are members of the Northern Illinois Newspaper Association.

# Artful gift

## Boylan students celebrate Black History Month with gift to cardinal

ROCKFORD—In honor of Black History Month, Boylan Central Catholic High School art students created portraits of influential African Americans in the United

States.

The objective of the project was to make all Americans aware of the ongoing struggle for freedom and equal

opportunity in our country.

To celebrate the month, art students selected one person and created an 8" x 10" portrait. The portraits were displayed in the school library for the month of February.

One of the featured portraits in the collection was of recently elevated Cardinal Wilton P. Gregory, Archbishop of Washington D.C. Cardinal Gregory's image was created by Missy McCoy-Minardi (1997 graduate), art department chair at Boylan.

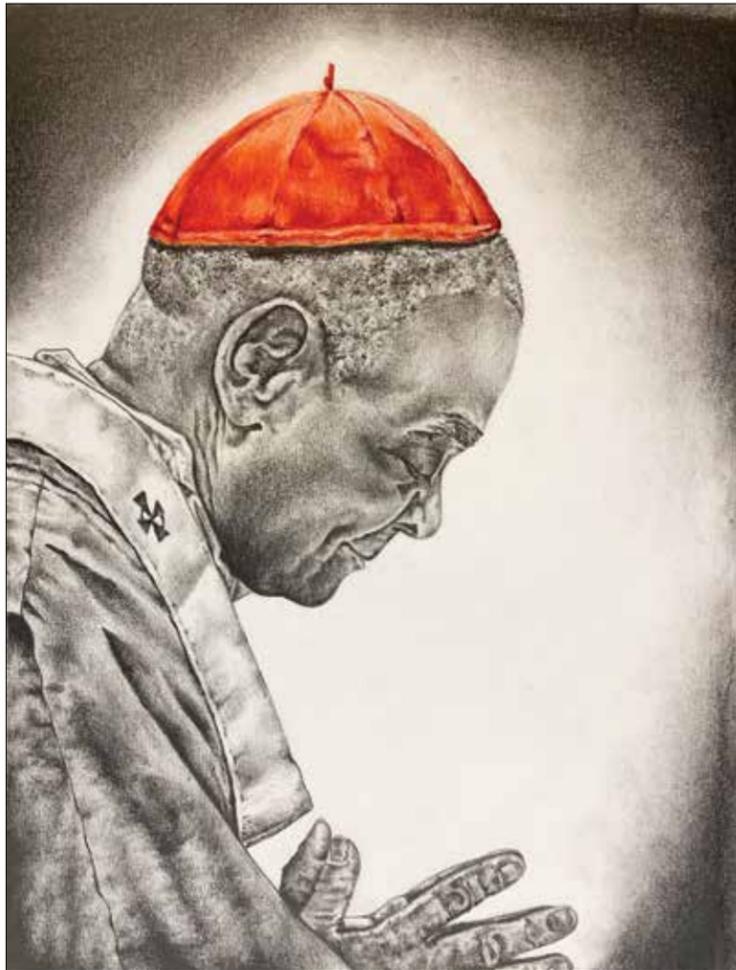
In collaboration with Father David Finn, assistant principal and spiritual director, a package of artwork from several students and McCoy-Minardi was sent to Washington to Cardinal Gregory in early February.

The package included student work featuring "Stevie Wonder" by senior Abigail Brodeski, "Toni Morrison" by senior Annabelle Okite, "St. Josephine Bahkita" by junior Bridget Peterson, and "Michael Jordan" by sophomore Michelle Gornicki. In the package sent to Washington, Father Finn sent a letter

explaining the project.

Last week, Father Finn received a thank you note from Cardinal Gregory. "Thank you from the heart for the beautiful artistic renditions that some of the Boylan art

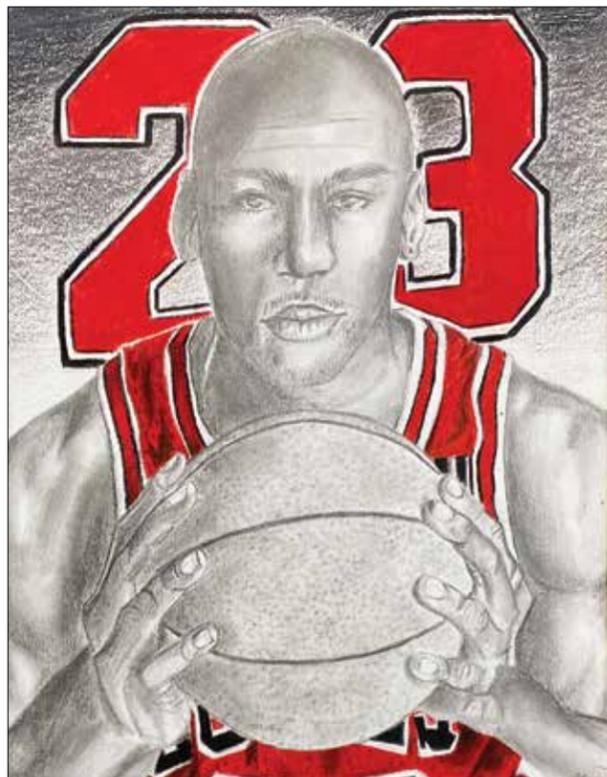
students created for Black history month — including one of me," wrote Cardinal Gregory. "I am humbled by that selection and fine expression of the talents of your students."



Cardinal Wilton P. Gregory by Missy McCoy-Minardi, art teacher



St. Josephine Bahkita by Bridget Peterson, junior



(Photos provided)

LEFT: Michael Jordan by Michelle Gornicki, sophomore  
ABOVE: Stevie Wonder by Abby Brodeski, senior  
RIGHT: Toni Morrison by Annabelle Okite, senior

