



DeKalb youth earns Eagle Scout honors

SYCAMORE—Joseph Fuss, 16, of DeKalb, earned the rank of Eagle Scout on June 29, with BSA Troop 16 chartered by Federated Church, here.

Fuss's Eagle project benefitted his home parish, St. Mary in DeKalb, where he volunteers and where his scouting journey began 10 years ago as a Tiger Scout in Pack 173.



(Photo provided)
Joseph Fuss

For his Eagle project, he designed and guided the construction of a new stone planter, created a Mary Garden, removed broken edging, leveled planters, cleared weeds and dead plants, planted new flowers, and added mulch around the church grounds. His project took five days to complete and included dozens of volunteers from St. Mary Parish, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Knights of Columbus and Marmion Academy, as well as friends and

family members.

Fuss has also received numerous Catholic scouting awards such as the Light of Christ, Parvuli Dei and Ad Altare Dei religious emblems. He also completed the Rosary Series, much of the Saint Series and earned the International Awareness Recognition award. In all, he completed 35 merit badges.

His leadership roles in his Boy Scout troupe included quartermaster, assistant senior patrol leader and senior patrol leader.

He is the son of Kevin and Kellie Fuss of DeKalb. He is a junior at Marmion Academy in Aurora where he is enrolled in the JROTC program.

Catholic HS grad signs with KC Royals

TRENTON, N.J. (CNS)—Shane Panzini has come a long way since he first fell in love with baseball while playing T-ball at age 5.

The 19-year-old recent graduate of Red Bank Catholic High School in Red Bank, N.J., is now among the ranks of professional baseball players.

Panzini was selected by the Kansas City Royals in the fourth round — and as the 108th overall pick — in the recent Major League Baseball draft.

He has since signed with the team and traveled to Arizona, where he is preparing to start his career with the organization.



(CNS photo/Richard O'Donnell, The Monitor)
Shane Panzini

"It felt really cool," Panzini said of getting the call that he had been drafted. "It was a good family moment."

In his senior year, Panzini chalked up a 0.91 ERA while setting a single-season record 115 strikeouts.

Restored faith

Steubenville conference re-energizes

Twenty teens and four chaperones from St. Mary and St. Patrick Parish in Durand and Irish Grove traveled to Rochester, Minn., for the 2021 Steubenville youth conference, July 23-25.

Steubenville holds 25 youth conferences across North America each year. Combined, the retreats serve around 50,000 young people ranging from eighth to 12th grade.

The conference theme this year was "Restore," echoing Psalm 80:3: "Restore us, O God; let thy face shine, that we may be saved."

Conference speakers included Father John Burns, Sister Miriam James Heidland, Chris Mueller, Cooper Ray, Sarah Swafford, and Sonar Worship. Sonar Worship also led the music for the conference.



(Photos provided/Renae Pinter)
Some of the youth group from St. Mary and St. Patrick Parish pose in front of statues of Mary and Joseph on the stage of the Mayo Civic Center in Rochester, Minn.

The Steubenville youth conferences help teens to grow in Christ through Mass, reconciliation, adoration, and talks.



Retreat participants and chaperones from St. Mary and St. Patrick Parish of Durand and Irish Grove line up in front of their travel bus for their trip to Minnesota.



(Photos provided/Al Benson)

Aurora CCHS opens football practice

Under tutelage of head coach John Belskis (pointing, right), Aurora Central Catholic football players open fall practices Aug. 9. The Chargers launch their 2021 season Aug. 27 at Plano. ACC hosts Richmond-Burton Sept. 3 in the Chargers' home debut. Other diocesan high schools are also gearing up for fall sports.

