



YOUNG OBSERVER

Marmion students named Illinois State Scholars

At Marmion Academy in Aurora, 30 seniors were included among this year's Illinois State Scholars. They are (not shown in order): Niraj Abraham, Lucas Blair, Jacob Bottarini, Jorge Campos, Daniel Chung, John Conover, Evan Dant, Andrew Deering, Ryan Grychowski, Andrew Hill, Anthony Hohol, Charles Konen, Anthony Kuceba, Luke Kuhn, Bryce Langkan, Peter Leurck, Teague Merrill, Ian Ortega, Blake Powers, Heath Powers, John Reavley, John Schokora, Matthew Sindac, Nathaniel Sowers, Ryan Sperlakis, Jackson Steele, Brian Stratton, Tyler Suess, Leo Verdecchia, and Jackson Wittenberg.



(Photo/ Terri Rios)

Saintly support

Boylan CCHS Lady Titans pray to St. Padre Pio for support, safety

The Lady Titans basketball team at Boylan Central Catholic High School in Rockford has "adopted" St. Padre Pio for the 2021-2022 season.

"I was introduced to St. [Padre] Pio by Father Steven Sabo a few years ago and, after doing some research on him, I thought he would be a great patron saint for our basketball program," stated Paul Perrone, coach of the Boylan Lady Titans.

Before the start of each game the team gathers in a circle under the basket and prays for Padre Pio's intercession, not for victory, but for protection from injury and harm. Padre Pio is also asked to help each player and coach to use their God-given potential to its fullest.

Padre Pio is known for his piety and charity, as well as the gift he received of the stigmata, the five wounds of Christ. The wounds smelled of roses and, although they constantly bled, they never became infected.

A Church investigation into his stigmata concluded that his condition was not faked.

He was known for other extraordinary events and acts throughout his lifetime. Padre Pio heard confessions for hours and had the unique ability to look inside souls. He was known to perform miracles and even to levitate.

During World War II, multiple fighter pilots reported seeing a flying monk during their missions to bomb a cache of German munitions in San Giovanni Rotondo, the town that held the monastery of Padre Pio. It was said that the "flying monk" was Padre Pio who was protecting the monastery from bombers. San Giovanni Rotondo was spared.

Padre Pio said, "Pray, hope and don't worry; God is merciful and will hear your prayers."

Pope John Paul II recognized Padre Pio as a saint on June 16, 2002. His feast day is Sept. 23.

—Provided by Paul Perrone.



(Photo provided/ Paul Perrone)

Members of Boylan Central Catholic High School's Lady Titans basketball team pray together before a game, joined by Father David Finn and other school staff members.

Breaking news

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



Info: visit <https://ninaonlinedotorg.wordpress.com/2020-scholarship-rules/>

Editor's note: The contest is up-to-date, although the website name appears outdated.

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

Say yes to the (prom) dress: It's free!



(Unsplash/ Marcel Strauß)

BATAVIA—The Batavia Public Library and the nonprofit CHIP IN Batavia (Community Helpers Impacting People in Need) will join to host the seventh annual Prom Dress Giveaway event March 12.

The giveaway will be from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Kane Vax Hub at 501 N. Randall Rd. in Batavia.

The event is open to junior and senior high school girls who live in Kane County. Hundreds of dresses will be on display. Private changing areas and accessories will be available. Face masks will be required. Admission and parking will be free.

Dresses will be given to any girl from any Kane school district, regardless of need. The event goal is to ensure that all girls, regardless of income status, can enjoy prom without concern over the typically high expenses involved.

COVID-19 vaccinations will also be provided in the space by the Kane County Health Department. Guests can schedule a vaccination appointment at [KaneVax.org](https://www.kanevax.org) or call 855-4-KANEVAX (855-452-6382).

—Information provided by Allan F. Benson, compiled from a press release by Joanne Spitz and Melinda Kintz, co-chairs, CHIP IN Batavia