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YOUNG OBSERVER

Students Honored

Rockford, Aurora students recognized in NMS competition



(Photo provided/ Carol Norman)

Eighth-Graders Serve at Clothing Drive

ELGIN—Eighth-grade students at St. Mary School unloaded donations from cars and packed up the St. Vincent de Paul truck during four hours of the organization’s clothing drive Sept. 23.



(Photo provided/ Jacquie May)

Aurora CCHS Cross-Country Team Takes Home First Place in Invitational

AURORA—The Aurora Central Catholic High School men’s cross-country team won first place at the Amboy Columbus Day Invitational Oct. 10. The team finished first out of 19 schools, with three runners placing in the top 10.

In 2021, over 1.5 million students throughout the nation entered the 2023 National Merit Scholarship (NMS) Program competition by taking the Preliminary SAT/ National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).

The top five percent of those students—50,000—were recognized by the nonprofit organization for their exceptional academic promise. Of those recognized, 34,000 were named as Commended Students, and 16,000 will go on to compete as Semifinalists for 2,500 National Merit Scholarships.

“We hope that this recognition will help broaden their educational opportunities and encourage them as they continue their pursuit of academic success,” a spokesperson for the NMS Corporation said in a statement.

Honorees within the Diocese of Rockford area include students at Boylan Central Catholic High School in Rockford and Rosary High School in Aurora.

■ **Boylan Central Catholic High School:** Four students have received honorable recognition. Three students—Brooke Christianson, Ronan Murray, and Sophia Okite—were named NMS Commended Students. Aldyn Olson was



(Photo provided/ Anabel Nosek)

Boylan Central Catholic High School honorees pose, from left: Brooke Christianson, Aldyn Olson, Ronan Murray and Sophia Okite.



(Photo provided/ Nicole Knops)

Rosary High School honorees pose with their certificates, from left: Josie Jarmuz, Maggie Seraphin and Lauren Audrey Paschoud.

named an NMS Semifinalist.

NMS Commended Students.

■ **Rosary High School:** Three seniors — Josie Jarmuz, Lauren Audrey Paschoud, and Maggie Seraphin — were named as

—Information provided by Nicole Knops, Rosary High School Communications and Marketing Manager; and Anabel Nosek, Boylan Central Catholic High School Marketing Coordinator.

Senior Prank-Turned-Present

Rosary’s TP tradition gets a community service twist

Rosary High School’s homecoming tradition of “TP-ing” the school building and grounds with toilet paper took a community-service twist at the Aurora school this year.

The senior “prank” started with the class collecting packages of toilet tissue and paper towels at the school on Sunday and early Monday.

The seniors then blocked the main school doors with a pyramid of paper products,

pranking the underclassmen.

The seniors enjoyed a celebratory breakfast with iced coffee and treats before class as the underclassmen made their way into the school building.

The fully-intact paper products were then donated to Hesus House, the Aurora Interfaith Food Pantry, and the Holy Angels Food Pantry.

— By Vicki Danklefsen, Director of Philanthropy and Alumnae.



(Photo provided/ Vicki Danklefsen)

Students of Rosary High School pose with the collected paper products before they are donated.