

Art Imitates (Holy) Life



YOUNG OBSERVER

Boylan art show honors the saints

BY MEGAN PETERSON
Features/ Multimedia Editor

On All Saints' Day, Nov. 1, a colorful change came to the library at Boylan Central Catholic High School in Rockford.

In front of one bookshelf hung a portrait of San Lorenzo Ruiz, patron of the Philippines, crowned with a halo formed by his country's flag. On top of a bookshelf, an image showed St. Hildegard of Bingen writing by candlelight. They were joined by over one hundred portraits in paint, marker, pencil, gold leaf and more — a celebration of the community of saints in heaven.

The art show brought together high school artists and eighth-grade artists from the Rockford diocesan grade schools.

The day began with an



(Photo provided/ Missy Minardi)

St. Joan of Arc
Madison Buelow, '24



(Photo/ Anabel Nosek)

Eighth-grade students from St. Rita and St. Bridget Schools look at the grade-school artwork.

all-school Mass celebrated by Bishop David Malloy. At the beginning of the Mass, Father David Finn, Boylan's spiritual director, announced that a copy of one of the art pieces would find a new home after the show — with Bishop Malloy.

Junior Madison Buelow's portrait of St. Joan of Arc was chosen, Father Finn said, because it "shows her fierce love of God and her determination to show [that] love of God in the world."

Following the Mass, the grade school students went to the library to see their art.

For Holy Family School student Bethany Hochstetler, Saint Barbara "of Lightning" was a shock to learn about

for the fan of storms and lightning.

When 14th-century martyr St. Barbara was beheaded by her father after converting to Catholicism against his wishes, he was struck by



(Observer photos/ Megan Peterson)

St. Barbara
Bethany Hochstetler, '23
Holy Family School

lightning — a dramatic story that Hochstetler found "really fascinating."

She looks forward to continuing art at Boylan with her friends Julia Berbecka, Eva Solana and Sarah Tran, who all made pieces for the show.

After the school day, around 50 Boylan students poured into the library for the opening of the show. "Cookies help," Angela Long, school librarian said after she reminded students about the artwork.

Despite the (possible) initial draw of the cookies, many students stayed to find their artwork and those of their friends and younger siblings in the eighth-grade section.

Boylan seniors and twins Claudia and Julian Nichols both created portraits for the show as part of a research project for art class.

Claudia's research shone through in one of the mediums she chose for her piece of St. Lucy: charcoal, which called to mind ash and smoke. St. Lucy was sentenced to death by fire.

Julian's confirmation saint was St. Francis of Assisi, but St. Luke, patron saint of artists, is a guide for him as well.

After graduation, he plans to attend an art school to pursue art — in fact, he has gotten a taste of college life through a



St. Lucy
Claudia Nichols, '23



St. Luke
Julian Nichols, '23

three-week portfolio course at the Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design.

"You can tell some of them have 'the eye'" Long said of the student artists. They just might have gotten some saintly help from St. Lucy and St. Luke, and many more.



(Photo/ Rosary High School)

Rosary HS Runners Win First State Trophy for Cross-Country

AURORA—Rosary High School's cross-country team took third place in the IHSA Class 1A state finals Nov. 5 at Detweiller Park in Peoria. Rosary finished with 198 points, and Toledo Unity and DePaul College Prep took

first and second, respectively.

Rosary's Chiara Surtz took 16th place with a time of 18:15.80.

Coach Vic Mead said the Royals' finish was its best and first state trophy in the school's 30-year history of

cross country.

Surtz, Olivia Kunio, Vivian Wyler, Natalie Goetsch and Ana Hathaway were the top five Rosary harriers, scoring four points ahead of Winnebago.

—Provided by Allan F. Benson.

Coach Vic Mead poses with the trophy, joined by the Rosary cross-country team: (front, left) Ana Hathaway, Natalie Goetsch, Vivian Wyler, Chiara Surtz, Olivia Kunio, Jade Ochoa and Amelia Whitacre; and (back, left) Ellie Gengler, Faith Fleming, Ali Palmer, Christina Ferraro, Grace Ward and Lisa Hardekopf.



(Photo/ Linda Stykel)

Aquin, Newman Teams Share Camaraderie After Volleyball Championship

NORMAL—After the girls volleyball state finals game, held Nov. 12 at Redbird Arena at Illinois State University, the volleyball teams from Aquin High School in Freeport and Newman Central Catholic High School in Sterling gathered for a group photo to celebrate each others' accomplishments.

Aquin's team took home the school's first volleyball state title, defeating Springfield's Lutheran High School to win the championship. Newman's team also took home a state finals trophy after placing fourth.

"I think this is a great tribute to our diocese," Elizabeth Heitkamp, Aquin Catholic Schools superintendent, stated about the teams' celebration and sportsmanship.

—Provided by Elizabeth Heitkamp.