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YOUNG OBSERVER

Students Honored

Rockford, Aurora students recognized in NMS competition

In 2022, over 1.5 million students throughout the nation entered the 2024 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 7,140

National Merit Scholarships worth nearly \$28 million. Honorees within the Diocese of Rockford area include students at Boylan Central Catholic High School in Rockford and Marmion Academy in Aurora.

■ **Boylan Central Catholic High School:** Five students — Aidan Clarke, Nolan Coen, Louie Andrew Domingo, Seoeun Jung and Maximilian Peterson — were named NMS Commended Students. They received letters of commendation at the school’s fall awards ceremony Sept. 25.

■ **Marmion Academy:** Ten seniors have received honorable recognition. Five students — Rory Bennett, Nathan Brandon, Jonathan Moscinski, Colin Tazelaar-Kruger and Joseph Walsh — were named NMS Commended Students. Five students were named NMS Semifinalists: James Jochum, James Kennedy, Dominic Pipitone, Ian Roskuszka, Nolan Sayasane.

—Information from Anabel Nosek, Boylan Central Catholic High School Marketing Coordinator; and Terri Rios, Marmion Academy Creative Director.



(Photos provided/ Anabel Nosek)
Boylan Central Catholic High School’s NMS Commended Students are, from left: Aidan Clarke, Nolan Coen, Louie Andrew Domingo, Seoeun Jung and Maximilian Peterson.



(Photos provided/Terri Rios)
Marmion Academy’s National Merit Scholarship Commended Students pose, from left: Colin Tazelaar-Kruger, Joseph Walsh, Nathan Brandon, Jonathan Moscinski, Rory Bennett. The school’s National Merit Semifinalists are pictured below in a combination graphic.

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Class of 2024
NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALISTS

James Jochum

James Kennedy

Dominic Pipitone

Ian Roskuszka

Nolan Sayasane

MARMION ACADEMY

A Catholic & Benedictine College Prep High School for Young Men

You and your family are invited to our

OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday, Oct. 18 at 6:30 PM

or

Sunday, Nov. 5 at 1:00 PM

RSVP at www.marmion.org/openhouse.

SCHOLARSHIP QUALIFYING

ENTRANCE EXAM

Saturday, Dec. 2, 2023 at 9:00 AM

All 8th grade boys are encouraged to apply online at www.marmion.org/admissions.

For additional information or to arrange a tour, please contact the Admissions Office at:

630-897-6936

or visit us at **MARMION.ORG**

1000 Butterfield Road | Aurora, IL 60502

Eucharistic Pilgrimage Invites Young Adults

WASHINGTON (OSV News)—The National Eucharistic Congress is inviting young people to step out in faith — literally — by walking hundreds of miles in a major national pilgrimage.

Organizers are inviting young adults ages 19 to 29 to apply as participants in the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage, which will take place May 17 to July 21, 2024. The "Perpetual Pilgrims" will travel along four different routes throughout the country — a combined distance of 6,500 miles — to the 10th National Eucharistic Congress, set to take place July 21-24 in Indianapolis.

Accompanied by priest chaplains, the pilgrims will cover 10-15 miles per day, passing through several major U.S. cities and stopping at a number of holy sites, while attending daily Mass and participating in Eucharistic processions. Parishes along the routes will welcome the pilgrims, providing meals, fellowship and holy hours. Pilgrims will be housed by parishes, religious orders, schools, shrines, retreat centers and host families.

Applicants must be baptized, actively practicing Catholics in good physical condition, capable of walking long distances, and committed to upholding Catholic teaching during their time as pilgrims. They will take on pastoral ministry roles and manage logistics along the routes. The National Eucharistic Congress will provide housing, meals and a weekly stipend for basic expenses, with pilgrims helping to raise funds prior to their journey.

Full details are available on the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage website at <https://www.eucharisticpilgrimage.org/>. The deadline to apply is Nov. 28, with final selections to be announced in January 2024. Pilgrims will enter a period of formation from February to May with weekly virtual meetings and a Feb. 16-18, 2024 retreat.