

More 2018 Honors



Rosary State Scholars

Twenty-one Rosary High School seniors have been recognized as Illinois State Scholars by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission for the 2017-18 school year. Statewide, approximately the top 10 percent of seniors are named State Scholars. At Rosary, 29 percent of the Class of 2018 are state scholars. This year's state scholars are (from left, front) Molly Wehner, Madelyn McCarthy, Anna Wright, Olivia Swindle, Nadia Callahan, Mackenzie Adkins, Maya Guzniczak, Kylie Bancroft, Hannah Noel, Madison Luce, (back) Sarah Woodford, Hannah Darnell, Lauren Brummel, Erika Ford, Emily Ryan, Riley McCue, Kathryn Desch, Madeline Gilmore, Sarah Foley, (not pictured) Claire Hengesbaugh and Bridgette Valenti.

Marmion State Scholars

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission has named 33 Marmion Academy seniors Illinois State Scholars. These 33 seniors represent 28 percent of the Class of 2018. They are Adam Auchstetter, Samuel Baranick, Jack Caton, Avik Chatterjee, Ryan Conti, Mark Ebert, Ryan Fletcher, Patrick Glanville, Edward Goyao, John Paul Jochum, William Kamps,

Liam Kelly, Andrew Kieffer, Matthew Lagman, Jacob Lee, Keith Mokry, James Morton, Sanjay Morton, Eric O'Brien, Zachary Orpilla, Jesus Ponpa, Thomas Powell, Benjamin Schwartz, Frederick Shoaff, Chase Stanke, Tyler Surges, Phillip Swanson, Evan Turcich, Jack Twitty, Nicholas Ward, Justyn Wicks, Matthew Williams and Abraham Yakisan



will return soon.

Send your questions to youngobserver@rockforddiocese.org

VOCATION CORNER

Lent

Each year we approach these 40 days of Lent with excitement and maybe a little nervousness or apprehension if we're being honest.

Of course the goal of Lent is to go deeper in our relationship with Christ by working on our faults and trying to build up good habits. Another way to put it would be to say that we strive to put our own will and our own desires aside and to strive also to fulfill God's will more perfectly as we progress through this season.

If this is the case, that this season is about doing God's will, then this seems like a perfect opportunity for discernment of God's call!

You see, each month in this column, one of the priests on the Vocation Team writes about ways in which we can both discover

and answer God's call for each of us, whether it be in the day to day details of life or one's big picture vocation!

Lent is a perfect and super-charged opportunity to make a concerted effort each day to discovering God's will.

I recommend adding one more thing to the list of things that you're doing for Lent and I'll tell you right away that it's nothing to be worried about because it won't take much time.

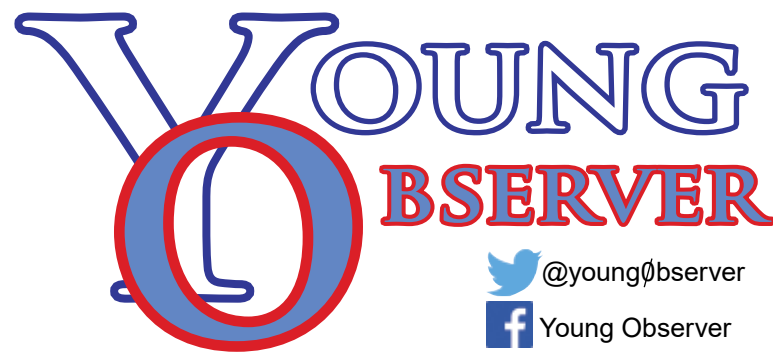
Simply add this prayer into your daily routine each day during Lent: "God, please give me the grace to keep an open heart and to desire your will over my own, and give me the strength to say **yes** to your call when you reveal it to me."

That's all! Have an amazing Lent!



Catholic Sisters Play for Different Olympic Teams

Catholic siblings Hannah Brandt (right) and her adopted sister Marissa, of St. Paul, Minn., participated in the 2018 Winter Olympics on separate ice hockey teams. Hannah, a member of the University of Minnesota women's hockey team, is a forward for the U.S. Olympic team, which defeated Finland 3-1 on Feb. 11 and was to play Olympic Athletes from Russia Feb. 13. Marissa, who was adopted as a baby from South Korea, used her birth name, Park-Yoon Jung, for the Olympics and plays defense for the combined Koreans, which lost 8-0 to Switzerland Feb. 10.



Marian Central Publications Staff



Students who work on both *The Crown* and the Marian CCHS yearbook, *Memorare*, are (from left, standing) Mae Novakoski, Tiffany Teubert, Addison Fortin, Joey Fitzgerald, Gianna Kolner, Nikki Baron, (seated) Olivia Arza, Emma Baader, Amy Herft and Ellen Sharp. Staff advisors are Lynn Widhalm and Kasey Gallagher. *The Crown* is published online (left) except for its senior memories issue, which is produced in print. The yearbook is designed with a computer program provided by the publisher, as displayed by Amy Herft (left). Yearbook editors Nikki Baron and Gianna Kolner (below) stand before the colorful storyboard they use to keep track of yearbook assignments and pages.



(Observer photos/Sharon Boehlefeld)



High school seniors have until March 23, 2018, to apply for NINA's annual scholarship for future journalists.

Learn more at <https://ninaonlinedotorg.wordpress.com/2018-scholarship-rules/>



ALS: 'Shooting' for a Cure

By Mae Novakoski (12) | Crown Writer and Photographer

Not only do the students of Marian Central participate in athletics for the love of the sport, but they also love playing for a cause.

This year, the 2018 Marian girls varsity basketball team dedicated their Jan. 12 game in support of those afflicted with ALS, otherwise known as Lou

Gehrig's disease. This cause was especially meaningful to the team as the father of one of the senior starters is currently battling this grave disease.

Landers Pavilion was packed throughout the entire game. In attendance were not only students and parents of the two opposing teams, Marian and Crystal Lake South, but alumni, faculty, and even students from other high schools, like Crystal

Lake Central. In fact, the entire girls' varsity team from Central came to support ALS and the Marian family affected by this disease.

The father of varsity senior starter Vanessa Garrelts has been battling ALS for many years.

Garrelts (12) said, "As we started to warm up before the game, I was a ball of emotions: happy, grateful, nervous, and feeling so much suspense for the game to actually start. Of course, this basketball game meant the world to me because of how close the cause was to my heart. The night honestly left me speechless. The amount of people that came, the support shown, the atmosphere that was in the gym. Just everything about that night made it one of the most special nights to my family and me."

Marian Central has been home to the Garrelts family for many years, as Vanessa's three older siblings also attended high school at Marian.

What better way to show love and support for Mr. Garrelts and his family than to dedicate his daughter's game in his honor?



Posing at the ALS game are (from left) Marcus Garrelts, Gabbie Garrelts, Steve Garrelts, Evelyn Garrelts, Steve Garrelts, Jr., and Vanessa Garrelts.

Highlighter Heroes

By Emma Baader (11) | Crown Writer and Photographer

An upperclassman with a highlighter-colored shirt opens the door for a freshman. The freshman's face immediately turns bright red; however, after endless cheers and chants welcoming them to the first day of school, a smile always appears.

These cheering heroes with highlighter shirts are known as mentors. The Marian Central Mentor Program helps underclassmen with their schedules, rules of the school, managing time, and so much more.

The mentor program aids the freshmen to prepare for the higher level workload and difficulties they endure in high school. This challenges our mentors to balance their time and helps teach our new mentors to manage their time as well.

Junior year is a huge year

for new mentors. They learn new skills in leadership and commitment.

Lilli Leggett (11), an excited mentor, said, "The workload at Marian Central can be hard at times, but you learn to manage your time quickly."

Some people believe that adults have more knowledge with helping the underclassmen adapt to high school; however, it seems underclassmen enjoy the perspective given by the juniors and seniors.

The upperclassmen can relate to the freshmen more because they were freshmen less than three years ago. The mentor program requires

students to serve as role models for the underclassmen which can inspire the underclassmen to want to succeed in all school activities and academics.

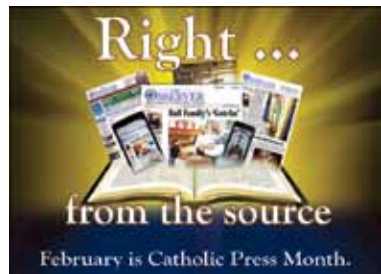
The Marian Central Mentors receive very high expectations from the teachers and students.

Madison Dahm (11), a new junior mentor said, "We all try our best in school and with our activities and try to be good role models for the underclassmen."

The next time an underclassman asks a question, there is a good chance a yellow shirt has got the answer.



Among this year's mentors are (from left) Joey Dusik, Erica Walker, Abby Noe, Ellen Sharp and Olivia Suarez.



These stories are excerpts from *The Crown*, the student newspaper of Marian Central Catholic High School in Woodstock. The staff prepared and submitted the stories and photos to demonstrate their part in the Catholic high school press in the Rockford Diocese. Look for the full stories, along with others, at <https://mariancentralnews.com/>. See more about *The Crown* and *Memorare* yearbook staff on page 6.



Mr. Tom Rome conducts the Advanced Choir. He will retire from Marian Central Catholic High School this spring.

Mr. Rome: Bringing Joy to Students

By Ellen Sharp (11) | Crown Writer and Photographer

When in high school, students are told that their high school years will be the most memorable days of their lives and that those four long years will be over in a blink of an eye. Freshman band and choir students approach the music room in fear; little do they know Mr. Tom Rome's welcoming presence will be on the other side of the door.

Mr. Rome has had his fair share of both attending and teaching high school, and he will soon officially "graduate" from teaching Marian students.

Little did he know, 43 years would go by and his high school teaching graduation would officially come. From teaching over thousands of students, giving them a lifetime of information on the subject he loves, the current students will have a hard time watching him go and the class of 2018 will be excited to graduate with him.

Mr. Rome has always had a love for music, so much that he decided to share his knowledge and help other students fall in love too.

Marian students come from all around the county, which means a variety of schools and other music teachers, but Mr. Rome stands out from all the rest.

"He is very caring in what he does and he really pushes you to succeed in music," Jamie Kalamaras (12) said. Kalamaras has had Mr. Rome as a choir teacher for her entire high school career and is very fortunate to graduate with Mr.

Rome. "Mr. Rome gives us multiple opportunities to sing through Marian and also outside of the school," Mary Elsinger (11) proclaimed. "He takes us on trips to sing with a professional choir in front of the bishop, which is very exciting."

Elsinger has had the privilege to be taught by Mr. Rome for three years, but now going into senior year with a new teacher, it will take a little while to get used to.

"I will adapt to it because I have to, but it is going to be difficult. I hope the new teacher keeps traditions that we do every year," she said.

Daily rituals are something Mr. Rome will always be remembered by. From his morning rituals to his yearly rituals, the students will never stop doing them on their own.

"Every morning we pray together, and it is a way to de-stress. We get to share an intention for everybody to hear," Elsinger (11) says.

Elsinger describes the ways Mr. Rome keeps his classes daily, but he also likes to change things up a bit.

"The prayers we say before class always change; it depends on how we are feeling, and sometimes we sing the prayer with different harmonies."

So as Friday, May 25th approaches, Mr. Rome is teaching, mentoring, and setting an immense impact on his students as much as he can until he officially "graduates" from the Marian Central faculty.