



Even in the car, young missionaries from St. Rita of Cascia keep their smiles ready.

## Tennessee mission accomplished

Teens from St. Rita of Cascia in Aurora spent the week of June 23 on a mission with the Catholic Heart Work Camp in Nashville, Tenn.

Seven teens and three adults participated and had fun helping others, meeting new people and growing in their faith.

While in Nashville, the team helped paint, clean and repair a school and church. They also

did yard work at an individual's home, cleared bushes and small trees at a school and helped in a homeless shelter.

The teens also celebrated Mass, prayed during eucharistic adoration and danced with joy in the evenings.

Organizers say St. Rita of Cascia Mission Team can't wait for next year to participate again.



A youth mission team member reaches high to paint a fence in a playground during a trip to Nashville, Tenn., in June. (Photos provided)



Members of the St. Rita of Cascia Mission Team pose in front of a Catholic Heart Work Camp sign. They traveled to Nashville, Tenn., to help the needy.

### VOCATION CORNER

## God, the author of life



By FATHER KYLE MANNO | Vocations Director

What is life? We all have the experience of life, but what exactly is it? Some philosophers have tried to explain what life is, but they found that it is really difficult to explain what exactly it is. It is because life cannot be confined to an argument or a human explanation of it, since life is not something, rather everything. The closest thing to a definition of life, that thinkers have done, is to describe it. Life is movement.

We know that we are alive because we can move. From the air moving into our system, and the blood circulating through our body, to the miles we walk every day, every single aspect of our life is movement. We know that we are alive because we can breathe, and our heart is pumping blood everywhere, but what about the plants, and the trees? Do they also move? Yes, growing is a kind of movement.

God, who is our creator, and the author of life, is constantly giving us life. God does not keep His *being* alienated or separated from creation. Many years ago He sent His only begotten Son, and then the Holy Spirit to us, that we may have life and life in abundance. From being nothing, He called us into existence, and now is constantly calling us to go out of ourselves to meet Him, and our brothers and sisters. He calls us to receive life and to give life.

## Save the date

**The annual Rockford Diocese Youth Summit will be Oct. 28th at Rock Valley College in Rockford.**

**Ask at your parish to be sure you're on the list to go!**

## Catholic schools earn top ranking

A recently published 2019 list of best schools in Illinois by Niche ranks nine Kane County private schools among the best. Marmion Academy, Rosary High School, Aurora Central Catholic High School, all in Aurora, and St. Edward Central Catholic High School in Elgin made Niche's top 100 in the 2019 list.

Ranking is based on rigorous analysis of key statistics and millions of reviews from students

and parents. Ranking factors include SAT/ACT scores, the quality of colleges that students consider, student-teacher ratio, private school ratings, and more.

Niche's No. 1 ranked private school in Illinois is University of Chicago Laboratory Schools.

Source: Kane County Connects

## WYD cross coming to Chicago Aug. 20

There's no more time to wait.

The World Youth Day icon and cross will be making a stop in five dioceses in the United States on the journey back to Panama for World Youth Day 2019. Youths from Panama (left) received the WYD cross from representatives in Poland in 2017.



(CNS photo/Paul Haring)

The closest stop to the Rockford Diocese will be Aug. 20 at Holy Name Cathedral, 730 N. Wabash Ave., Chicago, in the Archdiocese of Chicago.

There will be several Masses, an outdoor luncheon and an evening prayer service that day.

Info: <https://pvm.archchicago.org/events/wyd-symbols>

# Color it proud

## Boylan student paints bridge

By LYNNE CONNER | Observer Correspondent

Boylan Central Catholic High School senior Libbie Frost is combining her love of art with community service by painting a mural on the East State Street bridge in downtown Rockford.

"I think that public art is a great thing for any community to have, because everybody can enjoy it," Frost said. "I saw an opportunity to provide Rockford with more public art

by painting this mural. This bridge is in a great location. There is a park here. It's by City Market, and Rockford is doing a great job of amping up the buildings down here, bringing in new businesses. I thought the finishing touch could be an awesome piece of public art; especially one that says 'Rockford' on it and is part of our identity."

Before painting the mural, Frost asked for and received permission from Mayor Thomas McNamara and the City Council, as the bridge is owned by the City of Rockford. Frost also set up a Go Fund Me page to raise money for the project and to purchase paint, brushes and a special anti-graffiti clear coat that will cover the mural once it's completed.

Frost's artistic talent was nurtured by her family and helped along by the art classes she took at Holy Family School in Rockford and at Boylan.

"My mom is an artist, so, I've been basically holding a paint brush ever since I was a baby," she said. "I've always had a passion for art."



Libbie Frost works on the mural she created on the East State Street bridge in Rockford. The Boylan senior raised the money and got permission from city authorities for the project. (Observer photos/Lynne Conner)



Libbie Frost

The word 'Rockford' is prominently featured on the mural as well as monarch butterflies and purple

coneflowers, both of which are native to the Rockford area. Frost says that she hopes the mural will become an iconic

spot for picture taking and plans to include a hashtag on the mural so people can tag it on social media.

## Three from St. Patrick Scout troop in St. Charles earn Eagle rank

ST. CHARLES—Three new Eagle Scouts are all members of Troop 10 at St. Patrick Parish, here. They are Lucas Oesterlin, Connor Jacobs, and Amaan Mohammad.

They had their Court of Honor ceremony together on June 17.



Lucas Oesterlin



Connor Jacobs



Amaan Mohammad

### Lucas Oesterlin

Oesterlin began Scouting as a Tiger Scout in St. Patrick Cub Scout Pack 110. He completed Cub Scouts with his Arrow of Light and all four compass points. Crossing over to St. Patrick's Boy Scout Troop 10, he earned his First Class Scout Rank in only nine months.

He served in various leadership posts in Troop 10, attended many campouts, including four high adventures.

He graduated with superior honors from Marmion Academy in Aurora this May. While enrolled in the United States Army Cadet program, Oesterlin earned the rank of Cadet Staff Sergeant.

This fall, Oesterlin will be attending the University of Dayton on scholarship where he will be studying mechanical engineering.

Oesterlin's Eagle project was at Garfield Farm Museum in Campton Hills. The project, repair of a turkey house foundation, involved removing the house from a rotten and collapsed floor, then excavating and laying a new flag stone foundation. They are raised above the ground to prevent future rot and flood damage.

### Connor Jacobs

Connor Jacobs is the son of David and Christine Jacobs and brother to Miranda and Rebecca. Jacobs began his scouting career as a cub scout in Apple Valley, Minn.

After earning the Arrow of Light award in fifth grade, he

crossed over to St. Patrick's Troop 10 and became a boy scout. Over the past seven years he has moved up the ranks from Tenderfoot to Eagle, earning 29 merit badges, including the 13 required for Eagle Scout.

Jacobs has held many positions within the troop. He attended six summer camps, including four high adventure trips.

Jacobs' Eagle project was an environmental restoration that involved the clearing of invasive plant species from the Harley Woods property in Campton Township north of the Garfield Farm Museum.

Jacobs and his scout

volunteers and families cleared, dragged and stacked large invasive tree logs and branches to burn later. Volunteer time for Jacobs' project also applied toward hours needed for a \$4,000 grant from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation.

Jacobs graduated from St. Charles North High School where he participated and lettered in cross country and track and field and attended the cross country camp in Devil's Lake, Wis., all four years. He is enrolled at Loyola University Chicago where he plans to major in forensic science.

### Amaan Mohammad

Mohammad's path to Eagle Scout began when he saw a presentation on Cub Scouts in 2007 in Indiana and became a Wolf Scout.

In fifth grade, he moved to St. Charles where he joined Corron Elementary Pack 251, earning many Pinewood Derby trophies. In March of 2011 he received his Arrow of Light.

Soon afterward, he joined Troop 10, where he also served in several leadership roles. He organized a summer camp, where he displayed leadership skills. He is more patient now, although his younger brother may beg to differ.

He is also a member of the Order of the Arrow, which is like the Honor Society of Boy Scouts.

Mohammad graduated from St. Charles North in 2018 and is majoring in biology at NOVA Southeastern University. He has also been accepted into their seven-year direct medical D.O. program where he plans to pursue a medical degree.

(Information about Mohammad's Eagle project was not provided.)

Have an idea for a YO story? Write to us at [youngobserver@rockforddiocese.org](mailto:youngobserver@rockforddiocese.org).