



(Photos provided/Bridget Jennison)

Boylan helps Red Ribbon group donate for Rockford K-9 unit

Rockford's Boylan Central Catholic High School students present a check to help pay for a new K-9 unit for the Rockford Police Department. Students raised more than \$4,000 through their efforts. The money was raised to help a community-wide initiative launched by organizers of the Northern Illinois Red Ribbon Drug Prevention Program. Attending the presentation with Boylan students (above right) and Rockford police officers (center) were Miss Wisconsin and Miss Illinois, both of whom are involved in the Red Ribbon project and fair held earlier this year at Boylan. K-9 unit human members include Assistant Department Chief Andre Brass, K-9 Officer Jordan Stedman and his K-9, Dutch (left), four other K-9 officers and their dogs. Boylan girls basketball coach Paul Perrone is also the Northern Illinois Red Ribbon program director.

Two give to others at end of their lives

Two young Catholic men opted to care for others at the end of their short lives on the earth.

Peters': a ministry of prayer

When 19-year-old Nicholas Peters of San Carlos, Calif., understood that his life would not be a long one, he decided to spend the days that might be left to him ministering to the forgotten and the hopeless on the streets of San Francisco.

"Nicholas' biggest mission was spreading God's word and giving

dignity to the homeless," his mother, Becky Peters, said in a message she delivered at the Society of St. Vincent de Paul of San Mateo County's annual awards luncheon in September.

The organization recognized Nicholas' legacy of Christian love by renaming its youth service award the Nicholas J. Peters Ozanam Spirit Award. The award, which recognizes service to the poor and needy by youth, pays tribute to Frederic Ozanam, a French university student who in 1833 founded the Society of St. Vincent de Paul to confront the dire poverty he saw on the streets of Paris.

The Peters family belongs to St. Charles Parish in San Carlos. Nicholas and his sister, Lauren, attended St. Charles School from kindergarten through eighth grade.

From January to July of this year, when Nicholas succumbed to the liver cancer he was diagnosed with at age 16, Peters said her son spent up to 40 hours a week or more with the homeless or homebound, volunteering at soup kitchens, homeless encampments and senior centers.

When he felt he had still more to offer, she said, he would head to the urban parks nearby afterward with soup-kitchen leftovers.

"He had no time left, but all the time in the world" to be a presence to the vulnerable and the

poor, Becky Peters said.

Castillo's: a ministry of love

Even before he died saving his classmates from a shooter at his school, 18-year-old Kendrick Castillo was known for going out of his way to help others.

Last May, the nation learned about this young man from Colorado, who gave his life to save others, and he was hailed as a hero. But those who knew Kendrick Castillo saw him as heroic long before then.

They witnessed his heroics in small acts of kindness and the way that he lived his life: unafraid to try new things; unapologetic about how much he cared; unwavering in his commitment to his Catholic faith.

There was that day he jumped out of a car to assist an elderly person who had stumbled in the street. And that time he volunteered to help carry the casket at a funeral when he noticed that there were not enough pallbearers.

Kendrick Castillo's heroism — both on the day he died as a STEM School Highlands Ranch high school senior and throughout his life — is celebrated as part of the Knights of Columbus video series, "Everyday Heroes." Kendrick was made a Knight posthumously at the Supreme Convention in Minneapolis last August.

Kendrick's father, John Castillo, said his son was not the type of kid to believe he could not do something, even throwing himself into a pool just to teach himself how to swim. And he fearlessly brought love

and faith with him everywhere he went.

"He prayed over meals at fast-food restaurants or wherever he was at," John Castillo said. "He prayed with his friends. He prayed the rosary when he felt the need. I never pried and asked when and why he did it, but he would pray.

"He was the catalyst," John Castillo said. "And that love brought people together."



(CNS photo/courtesy family of Nicholas Peters)

Nicholas Peters, suffering from terminal cancer, lays hands on a homebound parishioner of St. Charles Parish in San Carlos, Calif.



(CNS photo/Knights of Columbus)

Kendrick Castillo