



YOUNG OBSERVER

Senior Prom



(Photo provided/Rosary High School)

Rosary High School students and Marmion cadets pose with seniors living at GreenFields retirement community in Geneva during the April 25 senior prom.

Rosary, Marmion Students Host Dance For Senior Living Community Residents

Rosary High School and Marmion Academy students came together April 25 to host a special “senior” prom — not just for high school.

Senior citizens living at GreenFields retirement community in Geneva joined in, dressing up in their finest and dancing along to classic hits: the music of Elvis, Frank Sinatra and Nat King Cole.

Rosary student Jillian Ferraro, vice president of the school’s National Honor Society, proposed the project as a way to bring a little variety and a lot of fun to the GreenFields

seniors. In an interview with WGN-TV, a Chicago television station, she explained that the seniors don’t often get the chance to dance and that the night would be a fun opportunity for them to dress up.

The rest of the National Honor Society members jumped in and invited Marmion students to join in hosting the dance.

In a video recorded and televised by WGN-TV, senior couples dance together, students chat with attendees in wheelchairs, and a man makes a jaunty spin as Rosary students clap and cheer.



(Observer screengrab)

A couple dances at the senior prom the night of April 25.

Members of the Marmion and Rosary communities shared their praise for the event on Facebook.

“Wonderful! So thoughtful!” one commenter said on Marmion Academy’s page. Others chimed in: “This is the sweetest!” “Beautiful story!”

One Rosary community member hopes the dance will become a tradition.

“I am so proud of these young men and women — you can’t imagine how much happiness you brought to the residents at Greenfield’s,” he said. “Hoping this is an annual event that spreads across the Tri-City area.”

—Compiled with information from Marmion Academy, Rosary High School and WGN-TV.



(Photos provided)

A Marmion volunteer and a Special Olympics athlete pose on the field.

Marmion Holds Spring Special Olympics

AURORA—During the April 27-28 weekend, Marmion Academy’s Regole Stadium and Powers Field welcomed a special crowd: over 1,000 athletes who participated in the Special Olympics Region C Spring Games at Marmion Academy. Volunteers from the school and community pitched in, including many people from the Aurora area, around 40 Marmion Academy students, and members of the school’s choir and drill team who helped in the opening ceremony.

Mark Malkowski, the school’s Director of Campus Ministry and Student Life, said it was “incredible” to host over 1,000 athletes and hundreds of coaches, volunteers and fans. “Congratulations to the athletes on an amazing weekend of competition,” he said. “The inspiration they provide is unmatched!”

—Provided by Brook Ramlet, public relations and marketing at Marmion Academy.



One athlete and a volunteer rest on the sideline during the games at Marmion.

St. Bridget Parish Gives St. Timothy Awards

LOVES PARK—Two high school volunteers of St. Bridget Parish’s Family Faith Formation program were presented with the St. Timothy Award in early April. The awards are passed on by parishes and schools in the Rockford Diocese to deserving youth each spring. The teens — who live as disciples of Christ, exhibit Catholic morals and integrity, show Christian leadership, and demonstrate Gospel values — are recognized by the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry.

Gianna Cacciatore was acknowledged for her Christian leadership; she serves as a tutor, Natural Helper and student ambassador at Boylan Central Catholic High School. She also sponsored two students receiving confirmation last year.

Henry Bradley was recognized as a witness to his faith through volunteering at Family Faith Formation and helping organize social events and fundraisers for his school. He was also noted for his Christian leadership and positive example demonstrated through his service president of the school’s student council and as a tutor.

Note: The full list of St. Timothy Award winners will be published in the June 14 issue of The Observer.



(Photo/Mary Henson)

Henry Bradley and Gianna Cacciatore hold up their St. Timothy Award certificates as they pose with their pastor, Msgr. Stephen Knox, after the award presentation.