



# Students Honored

## Catholic Students in Rockford Diocese Recognized in NMS Competition

In 2023, over 1.3 million students from 21,000 high schools throughout the nation entered the 2025 National Merit Scholarship (NMS) Program competition by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).

Around 50,000 of those students were recognized by the nonprofit organization for the exceptional academic promise they displayed.

Of those recognized, some 34,000 were named as Commended Students, and some 16,000 will go on to compete as Semifinalists for some 6,870 National Merit Scholarships worth nearly \$26 million. About 95 percent of the Semifinalists are expected to attain Finalist standing, and approximately half of the Finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship.

Honorees within the Diocese of Rockford area include students at Aurora Central Catholic High School and Marmion Academy in Aurora; St. Edward Central Catholic High School in Elgin; and Boylan Central Catholic High School in Rockford.

Marmion Academy students Adam Ozsvath and Matthew Sullivan were named Commended Students in the 2025 National Merit Scholarship Program.



(Photo/Terri Rios)

—Information from Amy Ott, Boylan Central Catholic High School President; Terri Rios, Marmion Academy Creative Director; Aurora Central Catholic High School and St. Edward Central Catholic High School.



(Photo/Aurora Central Catholic High School)

Aurora Central Catholic High School's NMC Commended Students are Sarah Beggs, Claire Perez, and Melissa Perez.

■ **Aurora Central Catholic High School:** Three students — Sarah Beggs, Claire Perez, and Melissa Perez — were named NMS Commended Students. "Your hard work and dedication have paid off," the school wrote in congratulations.

■ **Marmion Academy:** Two students — Adam Ozsvath and Matthew Sullivan — were named NMS Commended Students. "We hope that this recognition will help broaden their educational opportunities and encourage them as they continue their pursuit of academic success," commented a spokesperson for NMS.

■ **St. Edward Central Catholic High School:** Robert Sommer was named a NMS Semifinalist, one of around 1% of high school seniors in the country. In sharing his achievement online, St. Edward CCHS noted his many activities at the school, including three sports.



(Photo/St. Edward Central Catholic High School)

**Robert Sommer**

■ **Boylan Central Catholic High School:** Two students — Stephanie Lewandowski and Helena Solana — were named NMS Commended Students. They received letters of commendation at the school's fall awards ceremony Oct. 3.



(Photos provided/ Amy Ott)

**Helena Solana**



**Stephanie Lewandowski**

## World Youth Days 2025, 2027 Planned

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—The first World Youth Day to be hosted in a country where Christians are a minority will seek to embolden young people to share the Gospel while fostering interreligious dialogue, organizers of the event said.

World Youth Day 2027, to be hosted in Seoul, South Korea, will help young people "think about the dialogue between faith and modernity," Cardinal Kevin J. Farrell, prefect of the Dicastery for Laity, the Family and Life said at a news conference Sept. 24. The challenges young people face today — a loss of purpose, climate change, the digital revolution and economic inequality — "will stimulate young people to make their personal contribution so that contemporary culture may be permeated and transformed by the Gospel, with its power, light and freshness," the cardinal said.

The Vatican announced Sept. 24 the themes for the Church's upcoming celebrations of young people, both taken from St. John's Gospel: the Jubilee of the Youth, to be held in Rome in 2025, will have the theme "You also are my witnesses, because you have been with me," and the theme for World Youth Day 2027 will be "Take courage! I have overcome the world." Seoul Auxiliary Bishop Paul Kyung Sang Lee, coordinator of World Youth Day 2027, said.

## Outside the Diocese

■ EVANSVILLE, Ind.

### "Come and See" weekend Oct. 25-27

The Daughters of Charity invite single Catholic women ages 18-35 to "Come and See" life as a religious sister Oct. 25-27 at their community at 9200 New Harmony Rd. Talks will also be provided on Zoom. Register at <https://daughters-of-charity.com/come-see-evansville-october-2024/>

Info: Sister Liz Sjoberg, D. C., [slriz@doc.org](mailto:slriz@doc.org)

## BOYLAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

You're invited to our **OPEN HOUSE**  
SUN. NOV. 3, 2024  
10am-1pm



Can't make it?  
EXPERIENCE  
A DAY IN THE LIFE  
OF A TITAN!

### SHADOW DAYS

Begin Sept. 17th  
See more dates  
and register



## Young Adults Invited to Online Evening Prayer

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—The North American Vocation Team (NAVt) of the School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND) invites young adults ages 18 and older to find community with Catholics their age and uplift one another at a monthly Zoom meeting for evening prayer on Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

The online evening prayer, begun in 2020 in response to COVID-19, typically lasts one hour and includes evening prayer in the rhythm of the Liturgy of the Hours, interspersed with faith sharing in small groups.

"We enjoy sharing our daily communal prayer with those

who are seeking to better recognize and understand God's presence in their lives," Sister Bridget Waldorf of the NAVt said in a Sept. 4 press release.

Remaining dates for evening prayer during 2024 are Oct. 22, Nov. 26 and Dec. 17. Info: [ssnd.org/events/](https://ssnd.org/events/)

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