CLASS OF 2023

The Catholic Times

SPECIAL GRADUATION EDITION

Congratulations Graduates!

Our Catholic Schools

THE DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS
Congratulations to the Class of 2023

By Dr. Adam J. Dufault
Superintendent of Catholic Schools

Dear Students of the Class of 2023,

Congratulations on your graduation! On behalf of the Office of Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Columbus, it is my privilege and honor to welcome more than 1,100 of you into the alumni community of Our Catholic Schools. Along with your family and friends, we are so proud of all you have done throughout your high school career.

Graduation day undoubtedly marks the end of a chapter in your life. However, it also marks the beginning of a new chapter as you move forward to discover all that God has planned for you. While your senior year of high school may be remembered as a series of “lasts”, there are many, many “firsts” for you in your senior year of high school.

It is the hope of all of us who work in Catholic education that you, our graduates, are ready to be young men and women of faith, ready to serve our Church and our world. We pray that you live out the faith they have learned and received and heard and seen in me. Then the God of peace will be with you” (Philippians 4:9). I pray that you always remember this.

Again, congratulations on your graduation! Please be assured of all our prayers for this next chapter in your journey and may God continue to bless you, your families, your friends and all of the teachers, administrators, who have supported you along the way.

Thank God for the good you have seen and done in high school, and are confident that the Lord will walk with you through the adventures ahead.

You have been educated in faith-filled schools by men and women who live their lives in service to Jesus and the Gospel. I implore you to make Jesus a part of your life too. Keep Him front and center in your heart and mind, in good times and challenging ones, and you will always find the strength to endure. Apostle Paul encourages us again, “Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me. Then the God of peace will be with you” (Philippians 4:9). I pray that you always remember this.

My Dear Friends in Christ,

Congratulations! Your graduation is a significant accomplishment, and the whole Church in the Diocese of Columbus rejoices with you. Your hard work has paid off. We are grateful for your parents, family members, teachers, administrators, coaches, and friends who have accompanied you on your journey and helped you to make the most of your God-given talents.

Most of you will complete Commencement exercises. But what does commencement mean? The word appears in the English language in the late 13th century and is from the Old French commencement, meaning “beginning or start.” In modern French, we use commencement. In the late 14th century, the English used the word to denote “entrance upon the privileges of a master or doctor in a university.” By 1850, Americans used the word to refer to a graduation ceremony.

While it then may seem strange to have “commencement” exercises at the end of your education, it really is quite fitting. As you complete your studies, you begin a new phase in your life.

Something new is on the horizon: a new day, a new chapter in your life. It is the hope of all of us who work in Catholic education that you, our graduates, are ready to be young men and women of faith, ready to serve our Church and our world.

Commencement just the start of life’s journey and not an ending

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To educate another is to help the person to be a better person: a conscious subject, free and responsible, open to the good, the true and the beautiful; capable of entering into deep relationships with others -- of being with others and for others. I know that your parents, teachers, administrators, coaches and friends have tried to draw out the best in you, leading you to deeper knowledge of Wisdom and Truth. To educate means educating what is human in us, not only the mind but also the heart. True education involves developing a critical mind and a discerning heart.

We have all tried to educate you to critically and freely embrace the path that leads to life, that satisfies your heart’s desire – which includes faith and community, which answer the needs of the human heart. In Latin, satisfacere and perficere (satisfaction and perfection) are synonymous. It is my hope that through authentic education, you may find happiness -- satisfaction and perfection -- in this life and the next. In the end, true happiness is found in God alone. May you be led to an authentic encounter with the Lord who is the source of Wisdom, Knowledge, Happiness and true Joy!

Offering you my heartfelt congratulations and prayerful best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ
Most Reverend Earl K. Fernandes
Bishop of Columbus
Class members earned more than $1.2 million in scholarships and performed more than 3,715 hours of community service.

Eighty-five percent of the 33 graduates will attend 12 institutions of higher learning.

Members of the New Philadelphia Tuscarawas Central Catholic Junior/Senior High School Class of 2023 are:

Alexis Baxter, Brandon Burleson, Jordyn Caldwell, Jordan Cherry, Chase Ciakanski, Kayden Crosier, Rylee Dillon, Lucas Dumermuth, Madison Ferrell, Felipe Garcia-Paez, Brice Greathouse, Cassidy Green, Summer Hayes, Drew Lakota, Thayne Mahaffey and Maria Meiser.

The 114 members of the Class of 2023 were accepted to 161 colleges and awarded over $33 Million in scholarships!

Saint Charles, Hail!
Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School presented diplomas to 114 members of the Class of 2023 during its commencement ceremony, preceded by a baccalaureate Mass, on Friday, May 26 in the Robert C. Walter Student Commons.

All the graduates will be attending institutions of higher education, with 99 percent going to four-year colleges and 1 percent to two-year colleges. One will be pursuing studies for the priesthood. They will be attending 54 colleges throughout the nation. The class earned $33.1 million in scholarship money.

Five were National Merit Scholarship finalists and six were National Merit commended students. Class members performed 7,000 service hours.

Seth Pettis received appointments to both the U.S. Naval Academy and the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and will attend the Coast Guard Academy. Corbin Robinson was accepted to both Harvard University and Yale University. He has chosen to attend Harvard, which had a 3 percent admission rate this year.

Sam Martin was awarded the Chick Evans Scholarship for caddies to Ohio State University. Thomas Matthews earned a National Merit Scholarship to the University of Alabama.

Connor Nicholas received one of 18 Gabelli presidential scholarships offered to incoming first-year students at Boston College. Derek Lyons and Nahom Tewolde earned Darwin T. Turner scholarships from the University of Cincinnati.

Evan Rayburn and Aidan Silva won Morrill Scholarships to Ohio State University. Frederick Shimp earned a Founders’ Scholarship from Walsh University.

Members of the Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School Class of 2023 are: Zachary Auletta, Alnuel Barnum, Warren Bartlett, Parker Bashore, Reed Bateman, Griffin Beggs, Ethan Bell, Raphael Bott, Ryan Bowyer, Evan Brame, Connor Brandt, William Bruner, Adam Budzik, Ryan Carretta, Andrew Carter, Elijah Cassidy, John Castellano, Liam Chiarotto-Haney and William Chorich.

Maxwell Colucy, Liam Cooney, Clayton Coughlin, Steven Day, Diego Del Toro, Giovanni Delfino, Peter DeSocio, Broderick Doenges, Warren D’Souza, Nathanial Edon, Gabriel Epler, Maximillian Epler, Mark Filonenko, Austin Fraley, Noah Franz, Owen Galvin, Maximillian Garabis, Timothy Goehring and Owen Green.


Mason O’Reilly, Beckham Parsons, Seth Pettis, John Price, Brian Pultinas, Rowan Quinlan, Evan Rayburn, Nicholas Relli-Dempsey, Daniel Richardson, Matthew Rico, Corbin Robinson, Lucas Ryan, Evan Sage, Julius Samuel, Caleb Sark, Paul Sarko, Jackson Say, Matthew Schmidt and Ryan Schirnian.

Columbus Bishop Ready High School principal Matthew Brickner presented diplomas to 104 graduates during the school’s 59th commencement ceremony on Saturday, June 3 in the school gymnasium. A Baccalaureate Mass was celebrated on Friday, June 2 at Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church.

The Class of 2023 earned $15.9 million in scholarships. The valedictorian was Jessica Perez of Columbus. She plans to attend the University of Notre Dame on full scholarship. The salutatorian was Katherine Radwanski of Columbus. She plans to attend Ohio State University on scholarship.


Bishop Ready graduates 104 seniors
Four Bishop Ready seniors participate in construction class

By Hannah Heil
Catholic Times Reporter

Four graduating seniors can add a few extra things to the list of what they learned at Columbus Bishop Ready High School. In addition to math, English and science, the students learned how to cut drywall, paint and successfully complete a renovation.

These newfound skills were taught in a semester-long construction class at the school that was introduced and taught by Ready alumni Shawn Golden, ’96, and Brian Hamilton, ’04.

Golden owns of KJG Consulting, based in Dublin, and Hamilton owns Hamilton Contractors, located in Hilliard.

The men proposed the construction program to Dr. Adam Dufault, superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Columbus. Golden and Hamilton had worked on construction projects in the diocese, and they wanted to create a program for high school students.

“We talked to Dr. Dufault about possibly starting something like this because of the lack of instruction or interest in the trades, and there really wasn’t something like this at any other Catholic school,” Golden said. “So, we wanted to start something to gauge interest.”

The class, Construction Management and Technology, was first offered for the semester beginning in January 2023, and eight sophomore, junior or senior students signed up. Twenty students are registered to take the class next school year, and it will be offered both semesters, beginning in August 2023.

The students in this semester’s class renovated the school’s St. Michael’s Chapel. A metal art piece of St. Michael the Archangel was hung in the center of the brick wall behind the altar. After construction is complete, a large crucifix will be hung in its place.

The tabernacle, where the consecrated hosts are stored, will be moved to the center of the chapel behind the altar. Statues of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Joseph will be positioned on the left- and right-hand sides.

“The chapel was very dated,” Golden said. “We were looking for something that they could do to leave a legacy, and this is what we decided on. And next year, we’re going to expand on this as well. We’re really going to focus on the chapel for multiple reasons.

“We wanted to make it a little bit more of a sacred space, and that was the whole idea. The students had a lot of ideas. We nudge them gently in certain areas, but they had a good understanding of why we were doing what we were doing, like moving the tabernacle to the center and ... the crucifix that’s going to be hung and things like that.

“There’s a little bit of play on the school colors (the new wall behind the altar was painted a light blue), and that was decided by the campus ministry team here at Bishop Ready.”

Before doing hands-on work in the chapel, the students learned Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) safety laws. They also learned about building materials used in a renovation, including stone, textiles, wood and metal.

“A lot of people have never cooked in trim (a material used around the outer edges of a room between walls and floors or ceilings) before or hung drywall (a building material used for interior walls and ceilings) or finished drywall,” Golden said.

“The really neat thing about it was that each one of the students had a different area where they really excelled, and that was really nice to see.”

Ready senior Adam Schwab plans to do an apprenticeship — a trade program that offers on-the-job training — after graduation. Schwab said he wants to be an electrician. Although he does not foresee working in construction, he said the chapel renovation project is applicable to many fields.

“If you do a home reno, or you’re doing anything like that, it could be involved with some trades, or if you want to go into construction, it’s a good starting point,” Schwab said.

He said the class has taught him skills such as cutting and hanging trim and mounting drywall.

“We started by putting up two-by-fours on the original brick, and then we cut the drywall and put that up, and then we had to mount it,” Schwab said. “We painted it ... and then the trim.”

Senior Luke Ruth said he has enjoyed the class because it allowed him to work with his hands.

“I think it’s a fun class,” he said. “You’re getting out of the classroom. You’re not just sitting there looking at a board, so it’s hands on. It’s fun. I’m a hands-on person, so I like doing stuff like this.”

The class has taught him the proper use of tools and how to complete a renovation.

“We use saws and a lot of screwdrivers, and it’s just basic things you need to know when it comes to renovating anything or building,” he said.

Ruth plans to pursue a career in business after graduation, and the class has helped prepare him.

“It taught me how to work with other people because, here, we only have a certain amount of tools, so we have to share them and communicate through that,” he said.

Ready senior Lucas Johnston agreed that the construction class taught him life skills, the most important being teamwork.

“I would recommend it,” he said. “It really helps you learn things you need to learn in life, if you ever need to fix anything on your own, and it teaches you how to work with others.”

As a result of taking the class, Johnston said he understands OSHA guidelines, how to hang drywall and mud drywall (applying a mud-like paste) and use tools.

Joel Salto, a Ready senior who will graduate this spring, said the class “opens bigger opportunities that I want to do, like if I want to drywall or be a painter.”

He plans to apply the construction skills to home renovation projects.

“If I want to do my house, like fix something, or my parents’ house, it teaches me how to do more of it,” Salto said.

While a few students in the class plan to enroll in trade programs after graduation, others are interested in pursuing higher education.

One student wants to attend college to study engineering, which Golden said is “definitely an offshoot of this and, hopefully, gives him a little bit of understanding of what actually goes on in the building process, as opposed to just designing something.”

No matter the student’s path, Golden said he expects the skills students learned in the class will serve them well beyond graduation.
congratulations graduates class of 2023

$33,000,000+
in merit-based scholarships!

BISHOP HARTLEY
Bishop Hartley graduates 163 students

The 163 graduates of Columbus Bishop Hartley High School’s 63rd graduating class received diplomas on Saturday, May 27 at the school’s Jack Ryan Field. A Baccalaureate Mass was celebrated on Friday, May 26 at Columbus Christ the King Church.

Members of the class will be attending one of 53 colleges and universities. They were awarded $33.2 million in academic and merit-based scholarships, with 97.5 percent of the class going on to higher education. Hartley students in all four grades at the school performed 22,307 service hours during the academic year.

Receiving full-tuition scholarships were Betale Getahun, Madison Griffin, Nadiya Harris, Diego Maldonado, Md-eye Mbow, Camryn Murray, Eva Smith, Gabriella Tesfaye, Rachel Thompson, Sidney Waihenya, Cecelia Woods and Michael Young.

A total of 67 students received academic honors.

Summa cum laude graduates, who had a cumulative grade-point average of 3.9 to 4.0, were Joi Brown, Benjamin Burchfield, Marie Burkhardt, Zoe Carter, Morgan Donnelly, Riley Fitzpatrick, Betale Getahun, Madison Griffin, Mary Kitsmiller, Anthony Lentz, Jane Lynch, Parker Manos, Mdeye Mbow, Abigail Murphy, Caitlin O’Malley, Jacob Parker, Jacqueline Radous, Henry Riesbeck, Rayna Rodenkirchen, Jenna Ryan, Betale Getahun, Madison Griffin, Nadiya Harris, Diego Maldonado, Mdeye Mbow, Camryn Murray, Eva Smith, Gabriella Tesfaye, Rachel Thompson, Sidney Waihenya, Cecelia Woods and Michael Young.

Earning magna cum laude honors (3.8 to 3.899 GPA) were Julianna Bentivegna, Dominick Buckey, Isabel-la Chalfant, Jackson Corbin, Abbigail Di-Nardo, Margaret Epier, Alexandre Etienne, Raya Franklin, Sydney Gibson, Grace Goodwin, Maria Herrera Amaro, Jocelyn Heuser, Rebecca LeMay, Diego Maldonado, Luca Mampieri, Karla Mendez Barrientos, Luke Navarro, Jaxon Prater and Rachel Thompson.

Cum laude honors (3.7 to 3.799 GPA) were earned by Eloise Brandewie, Brooke Burchfield, Colin Callahan, Caleb Francis, Jessica Glass, Nadiya Harris, Gavin Leonard, Kaylee Mackey, Kathryn McLane, Camryn Murray, Dylan Newsome, Grayson Page, Mia Rooks, Michael Scali, Megan Sheehan, Lindi Sweeney, Ryan Thomas and Lola Vandemark.

Members of the Columbus Bishop

Hartley High School Class of 2023 are:

- Nebue Abebe, Chloe Isabella Albrecht, Corleece D.S. Atkins, Vera Lynn Balkus, Terrion Jamar Barbour, David M. Beach, Reese Beatty, Julianna Elyse Bentivegna, Jayne L. Bonner, Asia Sani’ Branch, Eloise Anne Brandewie, Emma Brody, Olivia R. Brotherton, Joi Alaine Brown, Kristin

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Our Lady of Bethlehem School and Childcare
Joyfully Building Our Best Nest Yet!

A proud part of the Bishop Watterson High School feeder family.

Congratulations to the Class of 2023 throughout the Diocese of Columbus!

NOW ENROLLING - Preschool, Pre-K and Kindergarten
ourladyofbethlehem.org
CONGRATULATIONS
CLASS OF 2023!

$22.3 million in college scholarships
9,215 service hours
Accepted at 150 colleges and universities

"Be who you are meant to be and you will set the world on fire."

--St. Catherine of Siena
Bishop Watterson senior practices English with Ukrainian teens

When many people worldwide began to learn more about Ukraine in early 2022 when the Ukraine-Russia war began, Columbus Bishop Watterson High School senior Ava Gruver was already well informed.

She began tutoring Ukrainian teens weekly in 2021 through a program called ENGin, and, except for a short pause when the conflict began, she continues the weekly sessions.

Gruver has spent about 60 hours tutoring three Ukrainian teens, working out times to meet on Zoom over email due to the seven-hour time difference. ENGin provides materials and matches up the tutors and Ukrainian students based on common interests.

“The Ukrainian teens are at different levels with their English; some are advanced, and some are beginners,” Gruver said. “I help them with their fluency based on their level of English, with topics like work, education, environment, social issues, debating, writing, holidays, family and other things.”

The ENGin lesson plans include discussions, articles, videos, games and quizzes. Sessions usually start with vocabulary terms related to the day’s lesson.

“The Ukrainian students all have different reasons for doing the program,” Gruver said. “For one girl, the school required it. Another wants to go into IT. "A" average all four years, awarded in different subject, so I try to talk about other things.”

She has found common ground with the Ukrainian teens, talking about similar things American teenagers discuss. “In America, we use a lot of polite small talk, but in Ukraine small talk isn’t a thing for them,” Gruver said. “But they are similar to American teenagers when it comes to things like hanging out with friends, having to do schoolwork, wanting to be a part of a group, having dreams about becoming a doctor or something like that. There’s also some humor that comes across.”

Another commonality for them is the shift out of high school. As the Ukrainian students move on to university studies, and Gruver moves on to Ohio State University to study neuroscience on a pre-veterinary track, she said they will continue to stay in touch, thanks to Instagram.

212 seniors graduate from Bishop Watterson

Columbus Bishop Watterson High School awarded diplomas to 212 graduating seniors on Saturday, May 27 in the school gymnasium. A Baccalaureate Mass was celebrated there on Thursday, May 25.

Ninety-eight percent (208) of the class members were accepted at institutions of higher education and received more than $23.3 million in college merit scholarship offers. They will be attending 56 colleges and universities. One student will be entering the U.S. Coast Guard, and one will join the Ohio Air National Guard.

The school awarded 96 state honors diplomas, with 99 students receiving the Presidential Award for Excellence. One class member had a perfect score of 36 on the American College Test, and 11 had perfect scores in individual subjects. Class members totaled more than 9,215 service hours in addition to the required sophomore service training program.

Thirty-two students were honored as valedictorians, meaning they had a grade-point average of 4.0 or better and 12 credits of honors courses. There were 193 academic medals, presented for an “A” average all four years, awarded in individual subjects. Fourteen students received service charity cords for at least 220 hours of community service above the sophomore service requirement.

Members of the Columbus Bishop Watterson High School Class of 2023 are:

Mia Mitsuko Aguilar Novelo, Samantha Taylor Alexander, Vanessa Nicole Armstrong, Pete Tambe Arrey, Kathryn Susan Bacon, Dylan Robert Belli, Laura Danielle Bender, Leeanne Marie Benson, Mason Jacob Bermudez, Charles Anthony Bernotas, Alec Jeffrey Berry, Margaret Lane Best, Katherine Lynn Bettendorf, Isabella Marie Blum, Grace Kathleen Boeckman, Luciann Rose Boehm, Reese Elizabeth Borland, Hannah Catherine Brady, Katherine Marie Braidech, Anna Cheryl Briscoe, Delilah Kay Britain, Bo Kelly Brofford, Carlota Brunetti, Eden Michelle Brush, Andrew Robert Burri and Gabrielle Amelia Capozella.

Olivia Rose Cardillo, Jack William Carpenter, Maggie Morgan Chizek, Adam Scott Cobb, Jenna Marie Collier, Katelyn Rose Combs, Adam Joseph Coyne, Brooks Anthony Crane, Elijah Adams

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BISHOP HERRMANN SERVICE AWARD WINNERS

JOHN CASTELLANO/ COLUMBUS ST. CHARLES
Parish: New Albany Church of the Resurrection
National Honor Society; University of Rochester George Eastman Young Leaders Award; National Latin Exam Maxima Cum Laude Award; Central Ohio Miniature Bridge Building Champion; Bridge Building Club; Works of Heart CPR; Internship at Ohio State University Davis Heart and Lung Research Center; Engineering Club; Ohio State University Engineering Competition Runner-Up; Campus Ministry Team Leader; Baseball Team; Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist

CALEIGH CHEATHAM/ COLUMBUS BISHOP READY
Parish: Columbus St. Cecilia
National Honor Society; Beta Club; St. Michael’s College Book Award; Ready Knights of the Round Table Award; Living the Gospel Message Award; Student Council; Student Ambassador; Retreat Leader; Prayer Club; Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist; Lector; Future Business Leaders of America; Softball Team; Basketball Team; Volleyball Team; Youth Softball Coach; Catholic Youth Summer Camp Volunteer; Youth Group Leadership Team; Parish Children’s Ministry; Parish Festival Volunteer; Mid-Ohio Food Collective Volunteer

COLBY GRAHAM/COLUMBUS BISHOP WATTERSON
Parish: Columbus Our Lady of Peace
Altar Server; Student Ambassador; Forum at Knightsbridge Nursing Home Volunteer; School Open House, Meet the Teacher Night, Freshman Orientation and Freshman Social Volunteer; Inprem Food Pantry Volunteer; Kairos Retreat Leader; State Fair Volunteer; Parish Festival Bingo Tent; Packing Lunches for the Homeless; St. Francis Garden Volunteer; Band; Band Assistant for Feeder Schools; Ohio State University Campus Fundraiser Volunteer; St. Stephen’s Blanket Project

DENNIS MONTERROZA/CRISTO REY COLUMBUS
Parish: Columbus St. James the Less
St. James the Less Church Translator; American Red Cross Blood Donor and Translator; International Samaritan Organization Global 5K Organizer; Planning to Go on International Samaritan Mission Trip to Honduras

MARGOT NALLI/COLUMBUS ST. FRANCIS DESALES
Parish: Westerville St. Paul
National Honor Society; Spanish National Honor Society; Rotary Club Student of the Month; Senior Class Vice President; Student Council; Core Evangelization Team Student Ambassador; Blood Drive Leader; Anti-Bias/Diversity Retreat Organizer and Station Leader; Parish Student Leadership Council; English and Math Tutor; Lector; Kairos Retreat Leader; Oakleaf Village Assisted Living Volunteer; Westerville Area Resource Ministry Volunteer; International Student Tour Guide; Yoga Club; Golden Hearts (Fighting Pediatric Cancer) Club; Run the Race Club; Mind Over Matter Club; Stallions for Social Justice

KATHRYN NELSON/PORTSMOUTH NOTRE DAME
Parish: Portsmouth Holy Redeemer
National Honor Society; Key Club; Science Bowl; Quiz Bowl; Tennis Team; Mock Trial; Art Memory Project; Claire’s Closet Volunteer; Parish Choir; Parish Bell Choir; Lector; Cantor; Campus Minister

PIPER OLSON/NEW PHILADELPHIA TUSCARAWAS CENTRAL CATHOLIC
Parish: Dover St. Joseph
National Honor Society; Senior Class Treasurer; EmpowerTusc Youth Sector Representative; Youth2Youth Leader; Buckeye Girls State; Golf Team; Track Team; Cheerleader; Mock Trial Outstanding Attorney; Just Write Ohio State Qualifier; Academic Challenge; Chess Club; International Club; Ray A. Kroc Award; Altar Server; Vacation Bible School; Parish Festival; Elementary School Cheer Clinics; Parish Soup Kitchen; Drug Awareness Program; Hospice Golf Outing; Canal Dover Festival Volunteer

JACK REHBECK/NEWARK CATHOLIC
Parish: Newark St. Francis de Sales
Golf Team; Track Team; School Cabaret; School Musical; Choir; Kairos Awakening Retreat; Otterbein Senior Life Center Volunteer; Dawes Arboretum Volunteer; Civilian Marksmanship Program; St. Joseph the Worker Day Volunteer

CADI TREEPTT/LANCASTER FISHER CATHOLIC
Parish: Lancaster St. Mark
National Honor Society; 4-H Club; Irish4Life; Fairfield County Job and Family Services Programs; Bickford Retirement Home Games and Craft Day; Canned Food Drives; Elementary School Tutor; School Spaghetti Dinners, Bid O’ Luck Dinners and Auction Benefits; Fairfield County United Way Community Cares Days; Bowling Team

CAITLYN WILSON/ZANESVILLE ROSECRANS
Parish: Zanesville St. Nicholas
St. Nicholas Festival; Zanesville St. Thomas Aquinas Church Festival; Cambridge St. Benedict Church Altar Server; School Bazaar Planning Committee; St. Nicholas Choir; Christmas on the Hill; Key Club; Hugh O’Brian Youth Leadership Program; Soccer Camp; Muskingum County Youth Foundation

CECELIA WOODS/COLUMBUS BISHOP HARTLEY
Parish: Pickerington St. Elizabeth Seton
Telersker Scholar-Athlete Award; Kevin Ryan Spirit of Cross Country Award; Soccer Team; Cross Country Team; National 4-H Congress Trip Award; Junior 4-H Fair Board; 4-H Camp Counselor; Leadership Washington Focus and Citizenship Washington Focus Trip Award; Fairfield County 4-H Lancaster Scholarship; James Kerrigan Memorial Scholarship; Altar Server; Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist; Vacation Bible School; Portsmouth Food Outreach; Columbus Marathon Volunteer; New Albany Walkathon
ALL-DIOCESAN ACADEMIC HONOR TEAM MEMBERS

JENNA COLLIER/COLUMBUS BISHOP WATTERSON HIGH SCHOOL
Parish: Worthington St. Michael
National Honor Society; Summa Cum Laude and Maxima Cum Laude National Latin Examination Awards; Zonta Club Outstanding Young Woman; Msgr. Spiers Service Award; cross country team; volleyball team; Student Ambassador; In the Know; Quiz Bowl; Latin Club; St. Vincent de Paul Club; Kairos Retreat leader; altar server; basketball scorekeeper and timer; Mid-Ohio Food Collective volunteer; Wigs for Kids hair donor; parish festival; parish Christmas decorating; parish Adopt-A-Family; St. Lawrence Haven sandwich making
WILL ATTEND THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

OLIVIA ETTENHOFER/COLUMBUS ST. FRANCIS DESALES HIGH SCHOOL
Parish: Gahanna St. Matthew
National Honor Society; Spanish National Honor Society; Senior Class president; Buckeye Girls State; volleyball team; National Merit Scholar; lector; extraordinary minister of the Eucharist; Kairos Retreat leader; Evangelization Team; Mind Over Matter Club; Spanish Club; Students of Black Empowerment
WILL ATTEND OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

ANNA HELBY/ZANESVILLE BISHOP ROSECRANS HIGH SCHOOL
Parish: Zanesville St. Nicholas
George Washington University Presidential Scholarship; Joffrey Ballet School New York City Summer Program; Movement on Main Center for Dance student; Mock Trial Best Witness; Mentor Group Leader; Campus Ministry; Prom Committee; Spanish Club; guitar and piano studies; Parish Festival chicken dinner; Beckett House Christmas package delivery; Zanesville Pumpkin Auction; Carr Center renovations; school play usher; Algebra I tutor; Choir; Parish Breakfast
WILL ATTEND GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

EMMA MCCRADDY/LANCASER FISHER CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
Parish: Lancaster St. Bernadette
National Honor Society; Senior Class president; Student Council president; United Way Community Care Day; volleyball team; basketball team; Eastside Volleyball Club; Irish for Life Club; Honors Band; Marching Band; Concert Band; Pep Band; All-Fairfield County Band; orchestra for school musicals; Ohio Music Education Association Solo and Ensemble Competition; Happy Farmers 4-H Club; Ohio State Fair food and sewing projects; Fairfield County Fair 4-H Booth; Baltimore Historical Museum cleanup; altar server; Sandwich Saturdays; Parish St. Vincent de Paul Society
WILL ATTEND CAPITAL UNIVERSITY

VALENTINA MENDOZA CRUZ/CRISTO REY COLUMBUS HIGH SCHOOL
Parish: Columbus Christ the King
National Honor Society; National Spanish Examination Gold Award; Top Job Team; Magis Award; National Hispanic Recognition Program; Questbridge College Match Scholar; Junior State of America; Student Council; tennis team; cross country team; bilingual Mass lector; Youth Group Leadership Team; Parish School of Religion volunteer; community litter cleanup
WILL ATTEND DENISON UNIVERSITY

BECKHAM PARSONS/COLUMBUS ST. CHARLES PREPATORY SCHOOL
Parish: Westerville St. Paul
National Honor Society; National Merit Scholarship Finalist; Central Ohio Miniature Bridge Building Champion; Bridge Building Team; Engineering Team; soccer team; tennis team; Ambassadors Club; St. Lawrence Haven volunteer; summer school tutor
WILL ATTEND UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

MEGAN PELTZ/NEW PHILADELPHIA TUSCARAWAS CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
New Philadelphia Sacred Heart
Kiwanis Club 4.0 Grade-Point Average Award; Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association Scholarship Society; basketball team; volleyball team; softball team; Pep Club; Vacation Bible School; altar server; Biddy Basketball Camps; Biddy Volleyball Camps; basketball and football concession stand and gate worker; Sixth-Grade Visit Day leader; Prom and Homecoming setup and cleanup; Science Day group leader
WILL ATTEND WALSH UNIVERSITY

KATHERINE RADWANSKI/COLUMBUS BISHOP READY HIGH SCHOOL
Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help
National Honor Society; Student Council; St. Vincent de Paul Society; cross country team; track team; Art Club; Beta Club; Future Business Leaders of America; 4-H Club; Franklin County Fair and Ohio State Fair participant; Tech Club; Youth in Government; Student Ambassador; In the Know; Carteens Safe Driving Program volunteer; Grove City VIP Volunteer Program; Grove City Food Pantry volunteer; altar server; lector; extraordinary minister of the Eucharist
WILL ATTEND OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

NICHOLAS RICHARDS/NEWARK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
Newark Blessed Sacrament
National Honor Society; Angels Persist Scholarship; Cincinnatus Century Scholarship; Energy Cooperative Scholarship; Sgt. Marc Muncy Memorial Scholarship; football team; wrestling team; Student Council; Kairos Retreat leader; Kairos Prison Ministry; Key Club; altar server; senior mentor for Freshman Welcome Week; Youth Football Camp; Biddy Wrestling Program; ROOT Program; Youth Evangelization
WILL ATTEND UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI

EVA TEDRICK/COLUMBUS BISHOP HARTLEY HIGH SCHOOL
New Albany Church of the Resurrection
National Honor Society; Hugh O’Brian Youth Leadership Scholarship; AEP Educational Trust Scholarship; Student Government; Gospel Road Program; nursing home volunteer; Feed the Need volunteer; Student Ambassador; Notre Dame Summer Scholar; theater/drama; cross country team; track team; Hawks Who Pray; Diversity Club; Art Club
WILL ATTEND UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME


Anne Marie Sutton, Elizabeth Nancy Thomas, Sean Patrick Thomas, Sean Davin Tibbs, Evan Sal Le, Emma Faith Kathryn Trux, Kelsi Lee Valus, Kathleen Elizabeth Van Duzen, Carolyn Grace Van Paepegem, Jadem Marie VanWashenova, Sydney Marie Vasquez, Eleanor Olivia Vodinelic, Clara Shey Vondran, Colleen Rose Wagay, Taylor Anne Ward, Cade Kenneth Warren, Garrett Clark White, Katherine Carol Whitsatt, Ava Mary Jane Wiant, Ryan Joseph Williams, Sydney Noelle Workman, Mary Frances Yablonski, Gifty Adjoa Yoaboah, Taylor Marie Young, Michael Franklin Zesch, Natalie Michele Zesch and Zoe Anne Zeyen.

Marie Brown, Dominick Buckey, Benjamin R. Burchfield, Brooke H. Burchfield, Marie M. Burkhart and Caden M. Burks.

Colin J. Callahan, Carla Carrera-Muirillo, Zoe Elizabeth Carter, Isabella P. Chalifant, Binyam Demissie Chegen, Grace Elizabeth Chen, Caroline Elizabeth Christy, Noah David Coates, Ter

Catholic Times
June 4, 2023
CLASS OF 2023

WATTERTON, continued from Page 11

HARTLEY, continued from Page 9

May Saint Joseph continue to watch over you and keep you safe.

We are so proud of the 2023 St. Joseph Plain City Parish graduates!

Logan Calabrese
Teylar Clifton
Alex Bendis
Nicholas Elias
Simon Fenik
Eveleigh Garnett
Georgia Hamilton
Addison Johnson
Catherine Kolb
Caleb Miller
Colin Neimeister

Biaggio Pagan
Cecilia Powers
Jacob Riedel
William Shaughnessy
Amara Suchy
Eli Trbovich
Samuel Trushel
Natalie Wagner
Matthew Warburton
Anderson Wilson

Logan Calabrese, Teylar Clifton, Alex Bendis, Nicholas Elias, Simon Fenik, Evaleigh Garnett, Georgia Hamilton, Addison Johnson, Catherine Kolb, Caleb Miller, and Colin Neimeister.
MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Four students in diocesan schools have been awarded Gertrude C. Kuehefuhs music scholarships. Outstanding instrumental and choral music students receive the $250 awards to help them pay Catholic high school or college tuition. Two scholarships are awarded to high school seniors and two to eighth-graders.

Kuehefuhs was a longtime member of the Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral choir and a music teacher at Ohio State University. The awards are made possible from a gift received from her estate.

HIGH SCHOOL INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

FRITZGERALD MANUEL

Fitzgerald “Fritz” Manuel is a percussionist who has played in the concert band, jazz band and pep band throughout his four years at Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School. He received the John Philip Sousa Band Award in his junior year for outstanding contributions to the school music program and occasionally has been asked by school band director Rick Brunetto to be bandleader in his absence.

Manuel is a Columbus St. Matthias Church member and often plays a drum set at Masses there. He is a freelance sound engineer and has worked at the Columbus Valley Dale ballroom, which Brunetto manages, for the past two years. He is a member of the St. Charles wrestling team and the school’s My Brother’s Keeper social service organization.

He will attend Capital University in the fall and major in music technology. He anticipates a career in the music industry as an audio engineer and artist manager and ultimately hopes to start a record label that is music- and art-focused.

HIGH SCHOOL CHORAL MUSIC

KATRINA GUNTHER-REVEAL

Katrina “Kat” Gunther-Reveal, a student at Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School, will attend the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and will major in media production. She also anticipates singing as an alto in one of the university’s choirs. After graduation, she hopes to be involved in television production and to continue in a choir or musical group.

She started cantoring for all-school Masses at DeSales in her freshman year and is involved in all aspects of the school’s performing arts program. She is president of the Drama Club and a member of the liturgical and concert choirs and the Horizons choral group. She also has been on the lacrosse and swimming teams. Her other school activities include Student Council, Voice Corps reading for the blind, Student Ambassadors, Stallions for Social Justice and youth ministry. She also takes private piano lessons.

She was the youngest cantor and first full-Mass youth cantor at Westervile St. Paul Church.

ELEMENTARY INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

OLIVIA HOANG

Olivia Hoang will attend Columbus Bishop Ready High School this fall and is a recent graduate of Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help School.

She has been playing and studying piano for the past nine years, has received many honors for her performances in National Federation of Music Clubs and Scale Olympics competitions and has taken part in Pianorama honor recitals since she was 6 years old.

Her school music teacher, Kim Nocero, said she is proficient at creating piano arrangements and writing poetry. She performs at holiday events in her parish, the parish art show and community functions. She also enjoys being part of the Out and About program, which brings music to hospitals and nursing homes.

ELEMENTARY CHORAL MUSIC

DOMINIC LOUISO

Dominic Louiso, a recent graduate of Reynoldsburg St. Pius X School, will be a freshman at Columbus Bishop Hartley High School this fall.

He has been singing in school choirs since third grade and joined the school band this past year. The school’s sixth- through eighth-graders put on a musical every year. He was the only sixth-grade boy in the 2021 musical, and music teacher Karen Smith said he inspired more boys to join him in the following two years.

He also plays the trumpet and guitar and was involved in other school activities, including the cross country, basketball and baseball teams, flag crew, Chess Club, Math Counts, Ski Club and Beta Club. At St. Pius X Church, he was an altar server, Vacation Bible School volunteer, member of the Forge youth group and participant in Eucharistic Adoration.

DESALES, WATTERTON GRADUATES WIN WARD SCHOLARSHIPS

Sophia Schroeder, a 2023 graduate of Columbus Bishop Watterson High School, and Eleanor Bogue, a 2023 graduate of Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School, are this year’s recipients of the Wendy O. Ward Foundation memorial scholarships.

Ward’s husband, Chris, a graduate of Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School, established the scholarships in 2015 in memory of his wife, a Hilliard resident who died of breast cancer on May 18, 2012, after a 10-year career as a writer and public relations consultant.

The scholarships are awarded to a graduate of a Columbus diocesan high school who has been involved in school, community and parish activities and has demonstrated academic achievement, particularly in language arts. Schroeder received $5,000 for college expenses, and Bogue was awarded a $1,000 scholarship. The Ward foundation pays the scholarship money directly to the institution the recipient plans to attend.

Schroeder’s activities at Watterson included cheerleading (varsity captain), Student Council, student ambassador, Environmental Club (president and founder), Wellness Club, National Honor Society, volunteering for recycling efforts and teaching at Columbus St. Agatha Church.

She also was one of Watterson’s valedictorians. Schroeder plans to study environmental science at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

Bogue, a Worthington St. Michael Church parishioner, was involved in Youth Group, Student Council (junior class vice president, senior class secretary), National Honor Society (treasurer), Italian Club (president), Run the Race Club and the swimming team.

She received DeSales’ Father James M. Berendt Award for outstanding service, leadership, involvement and loyalty. Bogue will attend The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. to major in political science and fine arts.

Wendy Ward, a graduate of Bishop Luers High School in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and of the University of Dayton, was grateful for her Catholic education and always said she counted herself lucky to do something not all English majors can – use her skills and write every day for her company, Constructive Communication, Inc., where she was vice president.

Her husband and children, Caroline and Jack, hope the scholarships will help provide others with the same opportunity.
32 MILLION REASONS
WHY WE’RE PROUD!

To date, the Class of 2023 has been awarded over 32.5 million dollars in scholarships and grants. Visit www.sfdstallions.org/class-of-2023 to view the impressive listing of the scholarships they received and the colleges/universities they will be attending in the fall.

Friendships begun in this world will be taken up again, never to be broken off.
St. Francis de Sales

Congratulations Class of 2023! We are so proud of you!
DeSales graduates earn $32.5 million in scholarships

By Hannah Heil
Catholic Times Reporter

As Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School Student Council president Richard Saka prepared to graduate, she was feeling mixed emotions.

“It’s a bit bittersweet to be leaving Student Council,” she said, “but I know next year we’ll be in good hands.”

It might be sad to close this chapter, but Saka has a promising future. She will attend Harvard University in the fall on a full-ride scholarship.

DeSales graduates earn $32.5 million in scholarships

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“It’s a bit bittersweet to be leaving Student Council,” she said, “but I know next year we’ll be in good hands.”

It might be sad to close this chapter, but Saka has a promising future. She will attend Harvard University in the fall on a full-ride scholarship. There, she plans to continue her studies in computer science and mathematics, and also my (computer science) teacher, Mr. (Jack) Gedeon, who was just a mentor to me all throughout my journey in computer science and was also my supervisor for the Code Club.

“His work has been a big help for me, not only teaching me how to code, but also teaching me how to teach others how to code. I have a lot of teachers here that have been role models to me and have been really helpful in my academic journey.”

The Code Club is an organization that Saka started at DeSales for her classmates.

“I do a lot of things in my community specifically related to my passions in computer science or social justice,” she said. “I started the Code Club at St. Francis DeSales, so I teach and create the curriculums to help allow some of my peers to learn to code and program and also teaching them engineering fundamentals.”

“I was able to help conduct some workshops for some elementary and middle school students, as well, so that they can learn how to code and program, especially young women who don’t often see themselves represented in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math).”

Saka is a National Merit Scholar. She entered the National Merit Scholarship Program based on her Preliminary SAT/ National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test score. High school students typically take the exam their junior year. The exam covers reading, writing and language and math. She is one of approximately 50,000 students, of the 1.5 million high school students who took the exam, to qualify for the National Merit Scholarship Program.
CONGRATS 2023 GRADS

Newark Catholic High School students are provided knowledge and skills they will need to prosper in tomorrow’s world, as well as the faith and virtues that can make them women and men of outstanding character. We provide a positive school culture where all students are accepted and welcomed.

(740) 344-3594 | www.newarkcatholic.org

OUR NUMBERS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES: 95% of students moving on with secondary certification / $3.7m total scholarships earned in 2023 / 21 NHS members (34%) / 3,340 service hours over the past 4 years / 432 pounds of food donated this school year / 1 full scholarship to Capital University / 1 student entering Seminary / 1 student entering US Armed Services

Blessed Sacrament School is a Christ-centered community whose mission is to educate the whole child; body, mind, and soul. We are a growing bilingual parish and the center for Hispanic Ministry in Licking County. We believe in fostering the unique gifts and talents of each student through “passion projects” and intentional interest-based learning with our Romans 12 program.

(740) 345-4125 | www.blsacschool.net

St. Francis is a dynamic crossroad where spiritual virtue meets scholastic excellence as the only Central Ohio Catholic School offering a Classical Education experience. We are a strong and loving community where Jesus is encountered daily, discipleship is fostered, critical thinking is celebrated, and joy abounds!

(740) 345-4049 | www.stfrancisnewark.org

Beginning in Preschool, St. Vincent de Paul School strives to provide a solid foundation to promote academic excellence, foster spiritual growth and cultivate social responsibility while modeling community of faith by communicating the Gospel message of Jesus.

(740) 393-3611 | www.saintvdpsschool.org
Newark Catholic graduates 62

The class performed 3,340 hours of community service and helped the school donate 432 pounds of food to a local pantry.

Members of the Newark Catholic High School Class of 2023 are:
Adyson Baesmann, Braylon Bates, McKenna Broyles, Gabriel Carlisle, Rachel Carter, Violet Caton, Caden Cecil, Kaylee DeBoise, Alissa Doehring, Anthony Dry, Hallie Dziatkowicz, Bradyn Ehret, Hannah Fernandez, Nathaniel Ferrell, Anthony Franks, Maria Geiger, Ava Gummer, Mason Hackett, Griffin H ale nar, Jessica Hammond and Austin Hendricks on, Blair Henry, Anabelle Hess, Ryan Hewitt, Meggan Hitchens, Colton Jackson, Mark Jewett, Madeline Kauble, Lochlan Kennedy, Ashley Kief er, Andrew Lane, Kyle Langenbrunner, Gabriella Layton, Shawn Leach, Camryn Mauter, Katelyn Merritt, Ruby Meza, Grant Moore, Sara Moore, Ian Morehead, Elijah Morris and Macey Myers.

The class valedictorian was Nicholas Richards, and the salutatorian was Anabelle Hess.

Ninety-five percent of the graduates will move on to higher education, including one who will become a seminarian. They earned $3.7 million in scholarships.

The 15 members of the Zanesville Bishop Rosecrans High School Class of 2023 were awarded diplomas at a ceremony on Saturday, May 27 in the school gymnasium. A Baccalaureate Mass was celebrated on Friday, May 26 at Zanesville St. Nicholas Church.

Thirteen of the graduates will attend institutions of higher education for our society, even going on to what we consider valuable to our children's education.

The scholarship recipients “exemplify the facets of the Equitable Excellence organization,” which she said means “working to make our community more equitable, striving for racial equality, socioeconomic equality in our cities.” The scholarship recipients are “people who strive to do more for our society, even going on to what we plan to study in college as well.”

Saka said she plans to continue her computer science and government studies, as well as involvement in extracurricular activities. She is also interested in continuing to learn Mandarin, the most widely spoken form of Chinese, which she studied in high school.

Saka competed in the international Chinese Bridge Chinese Proficiency Competition, which she was introduced to by her DeSales Mandarin teacher, Mengqi Wu.

“I've loved working with her,” Saka said. “She’s probably one of the most influential teachers that I've had in my life, and I am really grateful for her.”

The academic competition is designed for foreign students across the globe (outside of China) to demonstrate their mastery of the Chinese language. There were approximately 300 finalists for this past year’s competition.

“I was top 10 in the world finishing the Chinese Bridge competition, so as a prize, they gave me a scholarship to study abroad in either Taiwan or China anytime during my college years,” she said. “I'm really excited to be able to take on that adventure, as well, because I think learning foreign languages has definitely been such a big part of my life.”

Saka was awarded the permanent title “Ambassador for Chinese Language.” She will continue to work with the Chinese Bridge organization outside of school.

“The Chinese Bridge organization and the Confucius Institute are in charge of promoting learning Mandarin to foreign speakers around the world, so I get to be an ambassador of the language and work

DESALES, continued from Page 17

program. She was recognized as a Com mended Student.

Saka is a first-generation American. She was born in the U.S. to immigrant parents from Ghana. Saka said, from a young age, her parents instilled in her a work ethic.

Saka was awarded multiple scholarships for her academic achievements, leadership skills and service to her school and community that will fund her four years of college.

She won the national Amazon Future Engineer scholarship, which is a childhood-to-career program aimed at increasing access to computer science education for students from underserved and underrepresented communities. The scholarship includes a $40,000 award and a guaranteed internship with Amazon after Saka’s freshman year of college.

Saka won the Ron Brown Scholarship, which seeks to improve the lives of intellectually gifted, community- and public service-minded African American high school seniors by accelerating their progress into impactful leadership roles and opportunities.

“I was one of 50 around the country to be chosen for this $40,000 award,” she said. “We were flown out to Washington, D.C., in order to interview for the award. It's just a really amazing community.

And, I really love being a part of the scholarship community as well because it goes so far back, and it's just a really good opportunity for me to network with other POC (people of color) students and people in all walks of life.”

Saka was also selected for the Equitable Excellence Scholarship. The $25,000 award seeks to empower students’ future plans so they can continue to have positive impacts in their community.

See DESALES, Page 20
Cristo Rey graduated its largest class

Cristo Rey Columbus High School graduated the largest class in its 10-year history totaling 97 students at commencement ceremonies on Saturday, June 3 in Ohio State University’s Mershon Auditorium. The class Baccalaureate Mass was on Thursday, June 1 at Columbus Holy Cross Church.

Eighty-three class members will attend a college or university in the fall. Class members earned $22.7 million in scholarships and performed 1,368 hours of community service.

Valentina Mendoza Cruz was valedictorian, and Emily Maria was salutatorian.

Members of the Cristo Rey Columbus High School Class of 2023 are:
- Kirsty Agyekum, Esmeralda Alcauter-Torres, Giselfairen Appiah, Jackie Atta-Safoh, Aissatou Ba, Tara Lynn Barnes Fant, Rita Beyene, Madison Black, Savi-on Brownlow-James, Emily Cano, David Claytor, Darius Corbett, Alexi Cortez Aguilar, Sequoia Cruthird, Deja Darling, Musaya Deng, Amaiy Denton, Sara Dillallo, Sofia Dininni, Mark Dudley, Bruce Espinosa Cornelio and Janaya Ferguson-Boykins.
- Mari Fernandez, Joselyn Flores, Jose-line Garcia Ramos, Makeda Gemechu, Matelena Gemechu, Kamylle Gravely, Damya Gray, Brenda Guizar Santiago, Ronald Hairston, Hannah Hall, Jasmine Hampton, Yuliet Hernandez Correa, Deborah Hernandez Palma, Lizette Hernandez Perez, Zariah Herod, Shamea Hutson, Maria Jacobs, Kiara Jones, Nab urah Kaloko, Fanta Kamara, Jaliang Kanu, Ujwal Khanal, Karuna Kharel, Brian Lane, Rebecca Loayza, Emiliano Manson, Robyn Mapp and Emily Maria.
- Stacy Martinez Arellano, Everardo Martinez Delgado, Alva Martinez Falcon, Natalie Martinez, Valentina Mendoza Cruz, Vanisha Mensah, Dennis Monterroza, Alejandro Munoz Pichardo, Layla Murphy, Jakobe Newman, Nneoma Nlemchi, Kameron Nutakor, Hadijatou Nyang, Melissa Ochoa, Sherry Olabisi, Oluwatofunni Oresotu, Alexi Ortega, Fernando Ortiz, Josie Osorio-Santos, Philip Patterson, Omar Quintana Hernandez and Angel Ramirez Torres.
- Rodolfo Rendon, Cordaejah Ridley, Logan Rozzelle, Juan Ruiz Garduno, Jacqueline Saldana Flores, Andie Sanchez Reyes, Erandi Sandoval Quintana, Stacey Martinez Arellano, Everardo Martinez Delgado, Alva Martinez Falcon, Natalie Martinez, Valentina Mendoza Cruz, Vanisha Mensah, Dennis Monterroza, Alejandro Munoz Pichardo, Layla Murphy, Jakobe Newman, Nneoma Nlemchi, Kameron Nutakor, Hadijatou Nyang, Melissa Ochoa, Sherry Olabisi, Oluwatofunni Oresotu, Alexi Ortega, Fernando Ortiz, Josie Osorio-Santos, Philip Patterson, Omar Quintana Hernandez and Angel Ramirez Torres.

DESALES, continued from Page 19

with the Chinese Bridge ... to help promote more people to learn Mandarin,” she said. She said that she hopes to work with Mandarin professors at Harvard to start a chapter on campus and to encourage her peers to enter the competition.

Saka is also learning to speak Korean. She was awarded a scholarship by the U.S. Department of State to take part in a language immersion program in South Korea this summer.

“There’s a cohort of 15 of us going to Korea and taking part in this fully funded language immersion program,” she said. “I’m really excited for that because I’ve really loved learning foreign languages for the longest time, and I think that will really help me on my journey to working in the United Nations and taking my skills to help tackle issues that are pressing the world on a global scale.”

Saka was a semifinalist for the 2023 class of Coca-Cola Scholars. The program selects high school seniors across the country for their academic excellence, leadership and service demonstrated in school and community activities.

Saka was also one of 4,000 high school seniors in the nation given an invitation from the U.S. Department of Education to apply for the U.S. Presidential Scholars program. The students are nominated based on their academic achievements and college admission test scores. The final scholar selection is chosen by the president of the United States.

Saka said most of the scholarships she applied for and won were listed on scholarship websites.

“Pretty much all of the scholarships that I’ve been applying for and have won have been from scholarship engines like...”

See DESALES, Page 21
34 seniors graduate from Portsmouth Notre Dame

Diplomas were awarded to 34 graduates of Portsmouth Notre Dame Junior/Senior High School by principal J.D. McKenzie and guidance counselor Beth Haney at a commencement ceremony on Sunday, May 21 in the school gymnasium. A Baccalaureate Mass was celebrated on Friday, May 19 in Portsmouth Holy Redeemer Church.

The Class of 2023 was offered $1.4 million in scholarships and accepted $229,350 of that total. Seventy-five percent of Notre Dame’s graduates are pursuing higher education. Twenty-five of the 34 graduates will be attending 12 colleges, including four outside of Ohio, and one will be joining the U.S. Air Force.

The class valedictorian is Annie Dettwiller of Otway, the daughter of Chuck and Jamie Dettwiller. She has accepted a $10,000 scholarship from the University of Cincinnati, where she will major in psychology with the goal of becoming a school psychologist.

The salutatorian is Kathryn Nelson of Portsmouth, the daughter of Ronald and Keri Nelson of Portsmouth. She has accepted $22,000 in scholarship offers and plans to attend Shawnee State University, where she will major in art education.

Graduating with honors diplomas were Kathrine Ball, Mallory Boland, Kamryn Bradford, Carter Campbell, Alexander Cassidy, Owen Dennewitz, Annie Dettwiller, Libby Kelly, Reed Lasswell, Reece Mault, Luke McGuire, Seth Mowery, Kathryn Nelson, Braeden Patmore and Dominik Sparks.

The school presents three special awards voted upon by the faculty. The Citizenship Award was given to Trinity Bowling for her contribution of time and energy to civic, community and school projects. The Senior Service Award was given to Kathryn Nelson for her generosity with her time toward course work and extracurricular activities.

The Outstanding Senior Award was given to Annie Dettwiller for best fulfilling the roles of scholar and leader in the school and community and demonstrating outstanding character, service to others and, on a daily basis, high Christian ideals in all of her activities.

Members of the Portsmouth Notre Dame Junior/Senior High School Class of 2023 are:

John Ball, Kathrine Ball, Mallory Boland, Trinity Bowling, Kamryn Bradford, William Burke, Carter Campbell, Alex Cassidy, Myles Cole, Tyler Davis, Owen Dennewitz, Annie Dettwiller, George Duran, Wade Fraley, Libby Kelly and Charlee Lansing.

Dalton Lasswell, Reed Lasswell, Rea White.

37 graduate from Fisher Catholic

Lancaster Fisher Catholic High School graduated a class of 37 members at a commencement ceremony on Sunday, May 28 in the school gymnasium. A Baccalaureate Mass was celebrated on Friday, May 26 in Lancaster St. Bernadette Church.

Thirty-two class members will be attending one of 17 institutions of higher education. They were awarded more than $4.6 million in scholarships.

One graduate will be entering the U.S. Army, one will be going to the Ohio Air National Guard and three will enter the workforce. The class valedictorian was Emma McCrady, and the salutatorians were Emeline Neighbor and JJ Viau.

Members of the Fisher Catholic High School Class of 2023 are:

Brenna Beauseau, Elliot Boley, Ben Boyd, Owen Brandt, Averie Bruce, Gabbie Bruno, Joanna Carr, Ella Clum, Emma Corby, Nick Dolci, Austin Evans, Ava Ewing, Jordyn Fitch, Ellie Funk, Lillia Funk, Marie Hampshire, Cat Hanf, Isaac Hill and Liam Hoch.

Abby Kenney, Anna Kenney, Jake Krooner, Lydia Martin, Malia McIlvenagh, Emma McCrady, Sophie Morrison, Emeline Neighbor, Nathan Reiling, Alex Ristau, Noah Sharp, Sophie Shaw, Nathan Shea, Annie Steidman, Carley Sumney, Cady Tipple, JJ Viau and Piper White.

DESALES, continued from Page 20

society. She is passionate about her community and has served as president of the Student Organization for Black Empowerment (SOBE). She has been working with them for over a year and is currently the vice president.

SOBE has also been working on a new initiative called “Black History Month Assembly.” They plan to have this event every year to honor African American history.

Another project that is important to Saka is her work with the Columbus City Council. She has been working with them to address issues such as police reform and education equity.

Saka has also been involved in community service projects. She has volunteered at a local food bank and has helped to organize a community clean-up event.

Saka’s advice for others is to stay involved in their community and to always be willing to help others.

See DESALES, Page 22
GRACE PLUMMER
CLASS of 2023
Congratulations on being named Best of Class! May God continue to light the path first set for you at Sts. Peter and Paul School. Best wishes at OSU!
LOVE, MOM, DAD & GRANT

AVA GUMMER
CLASS of 2023
Congratulations, Ava Gummer, on you academic and athletic achievements! We are so proud of you!
LOVE, DAD, MOM, SYDNEY & CHARLEE

MIRANDA TYACK
CLASS of 2023
Your mom & dad are proud of you, how well you did in high school & what a great young woman you have become. We can't wait to see you continue your academic & athletic career at Heidelberg University.
LOVE, DAD & MOM

GABRIELLA ERVIN
CLASS of 2023
Congratulations, Bear, on all you continue to accomplish! Howard and the World await!
LOVE, YOUR PACK - DAD, MOM, CHARLIE, & AUGGIE

JUSTIN DAS
CLASS of 2023
Congratulations Justin! Good luck at OSU!
LOVE MOM, DAD, ALEX, TRISTAN, & YOUR ENTIRE FAMILY.

RUSSELL E. BONNEVILLE III, MD, PHD
CLASS of 2023
Congratulations! You’ve acquired much knowledge, but this wisdom is not all that defines you. It’s your kind, gentle, and faithful heart that will make this world a better place.
LOVE & PRAYERS, MOM & DAD

REED LASSWELL
CLASS of 2023
Congratulations on all of your hard work and accomplishments! We are so very proud of you!
LOVE, DAD, MOM & TAYLOR

BRAEDEN PATMORE
CLASS of 2023
We are so proud of you and all of your accomplishments! If you believe in yourself and trust in God, you can do anything. We love you!
LOVE, MOM, DAD, & RYLEE

RYAN MULLIGAN
CLASS of 2023
Congratulations Ryan! May God continue to bless you on your journey to Miami!
LOVE, DAD & MOM, PATRICK, Brynn, Lilly & Michael

ALEX FASONE
CLASS of 2023
Congratulations on your graduation! This is a huge accomplishment, and we are so proud of you! Remember to always stay curious, keep learning, and follow your passions!
LOVE MOM & DAD

AMARIAN HEGENBERGER ELLARS
CLASS of 2023
We are proud to of your achievements and cannot wait to see what you will to in this world. Good luck in your studies of Mechanical Engineering and pitching/hitting at University of Michigan!
GO BLUE!

JENNA COLLIER
CLASS of 2023
"Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire." Mind your sparks at Notre Dame!!
LOVE, MOM, DAD, PAXTON, & ST. CATHERINE OF Siena

AJ BERRY
CLASS of 2023
Congratulations Aj! We are so proud of you! All the best at the University of Cincinnati!
LOVE, MOM, DAD & SAM

BOBBY STEPHENSON
CLASS of 2023
Congratulations on all your accomplishments! Good luck at OSU!
LOVE, DAD, MOM, & MARISSA

DESALES, continued from Page 21
the board for a year. We learned a lot about how city municipal governments work.
"We worked closely with the Columbus City Council, and we met every month at the City Hall. It’s really nice to be able to go there and meet different city leaders and just learn more about what we as a youth can do to make a change in our local cities and our schools as well.”
Saka demonstrated her leadership skills as a Bank of America Student Leader. Bank of America’s Student Leaders program prepares community-minded youth for success through leadership training and work experience. Saka was one of four students in central Ohio selected for the national program.
“Every major city that has a Bank of America headquarters, they also have three to four Student Leaders,” she said. “So, I had a paid internship at I Know I Can, which is a local nonprofit that works to help high schoolers at inner-city schools and public schools in Columbus to start the process of applying to college and pursuing higher education.
“Being able to see how working at a nonprofit works and be able to be a part of that network of other student leaders was definitely such a valuable experience for me.”
Saka also held a virtual summer internship at the Yale Center for Clinical Investigation.
“We worked with clinical doctors and
DESALES, continued from Page 22

professors at Yale in order to create a program to encourage more POC and more youth to get interested in clinical research and also encouraging people to take part in clinical trials,” she said.

“So, that was very rewarding to see how the process works in doing research relating to social issues and also ways that youth can definitely make a change in terms of STEM and research. That was a really fun experience as well.”

For the past few years of high school, Saka interned at the University of Pittsburgh’s bioinformatics (using software for understanding biological data) center.

“I did a research project there also related to data science and public health, and I was able to present my research at a few competitions and also even published a paper with my mentor,” she said. “It’s still pending, but it will be published soon.”

Saka and her mentor, a Ph.D. candidate at the university, worked on a research paper for the American Medical Informatics Association, she said.

During her final high school semester, Saka interned at the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.

“I worked in their techinformatics center, so that was really cool to see how I could use technology to apply that in a government aspect, how technology is used in issues pressing our city and our state socially,” she said. “That’s something that sparked my interest in wanting to go into the intersection of computer science and government.”

“I can use STEM and apply that to public policy and issues relating to public service as well. I think that’s definitely something really cool because I think people don’t necessarily think of STEM as things that you can apply to maybe non-technical problems.

“I think when people think ‘STEM’ they think of tech startups, like Google or Amazon, not necessarily like the U.S. government or the United Nations. So, I think that’s definitely something that really interests me.”

While interning at the state agency, Saka said, she learned how data can be used to predict future actions.

“You could solve a problem relating to how people apply for unemployment benefits, how computer science can be used to more efficiently streamline the process of people applying for unemployment benefits ... and how the application process goes,” she said. “You can use computer science in pretty much any aspect of social issues or anything related to that.”

Saka hopes to apply this knowledge to a future career at the United Nations.

“They do have a few jobs (at the United Nations) related to tech policy and equitability and technology, especially in Third World countries, and how technology can be spread to those countries so that they can have access to the same assets that we do here,” she said. “I think I would definitely be interested in working on some of those projects.”

Reflecting on her many achievements, Saka traced her success back to her family roots.

“And having a good support system at home with my sisters and my mom. They have definitely supported me every step of the way, and I’m really grateful for that. I think that’s definitely what has been my recipe to success.”

As she prepares to head to the East Coast for college, Saka said she will miss her friends from DeSales most.

“They’ve been my backbone throughout high school,” she said. “They’ve also kept me really humble and grounded for sure. I’m really grateful for my friend group and the friends that I’ve made at DeSales.”

Receive the Gospel of Christ whose herald you are.
Believe what you read, teach what you believe, and practice what you teach.
CONGRATULATIONS

to all the high school seniors

on reaching this significant milestone in your lives! As you stand on the precipice of the next chapter in your lives, take a moment to reflect and pray on the tremendous dedication, hard work, and perseverance that has led you here. You have weathered the storms of adolescence, overcome a pandemic, and emerged stronger and wiser. May your future be filled with success, fulfillment, endless possibilities, and the Holy Spirit. Congratulations once again, and may all of your dreams carry you to new heights.

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