

# Proclaiming the Good News

## Catholic School Updates

Good news stories are happening in Catholic schools across the country! Let NCEA know what is happening with your school so that we may share on NCEA Talk, social media and in the pages of *Momentum*. Visit [www.NCEA.org/shareyourstory](http://www.NCEA.org/shareyourstory) to submit your good news today!

### PENNSYLVANIA

#### Archdiocese of Philadelphia

In April, students from Jesuit schools located on opposite sides of the United States collaborated to celebrate National Poetry Month. High school students from Loyola High School in Los Angeles developed lesson plans and filmed videos to teach poetry to middle school

students in the advanced writing program at Gesu School in Philadelphia. The program focusing on African American poetry is spearheaded by the students, with guidance from Loyola High School's Director of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion and English/social studies instructor Douglas Brown and Gesu School's Advanced Writing teacher Aileen Moore.

The monthlong collaboration included a special poetry session to honor Gesu graduate Andre'a Rhoads, the 2021 - 2022 Youth Poet Laureate of Philadelphia from other Poet Laureates from around the country. The virtual event was highlighted by a reading from award-winning writer Mahogany L. Browne and readings of poems written by Gesu School students.



Gesu Poetry Gianni, 8th Grade Poetry Contest Winner - Archdiocese of Philadelphia



Gesu Poetry Ariel, 6th Grade Poetry Contest Winner  
Archdiocese of Philadelphia

## GEORGIA

### Archdiocese of Atlanta

Carnegie Hall and its Weill Music Institute has invited Pinecrest Academy senior Ryan Clever to be a member of the National Youth Orchestra of the United States of America (NYO-USA), one of the most prestigious summer music programs in the country for the 2022 season. This will be his second year as a member of NYO-USA.

The 2022 NYO-USA program runs from July 16 through August 11 and begins with a two-week residency at Purchase College, SUNY, where musicians will work with orchestra director James Ross and a faculty of principal players from many of America's greatest orchestras.

Following the residency and a performance at Carnegie Hall, plans include a tour of Europe, including concerts in Amsterdam, Berlin and Lucerne, under the direction of Daniel Harding, with cellist Alisa Weilerstein as guest soloist.

An accomplished flutist, Ryan has made All District and All State throughout high school and has been first in the state on flute for three years. He received a full tuition scholarship to participate in the Interlochen Arts Summer Program, was a Governor's Honors Program Recipient and also made the All National Concert Band.

Throughout high school, Ryan has been the section leader for the Atlanta Youth Wind Symphony, Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra and Emory Youth Symphony Orchestra. He is currently auditioning for many conservatories and universities throughout the country.

## MASSACHUSETTS

### Diocese of Worcester

On February 2, 2022, Rose arrived at 425 Salisbury Street, Worcester, MA. Exactly 218 years earlier, on February 2, 1804, three women, including Julie Billiart, committed themselves to God by a vow of chastity and the care and education of young girls. The founding day of the Sisters of Notre Dame was the perfect day to celebrate Rose's birthday and the mission to inspire young girls for years to come.

Who is Rose? Rose the Rebel is Notre Dame Academy's (the NDA Rebels) new mascot. Rose made a dramatic entrance into the school's gymnasium and was greeted by the students and faculty as well as other local mascots, including Smiley from the Worcester Red Sox, Arthur from the Worcester Pirates, AMCAT from Anna Maria College, Trax from the Worcester Railers and Jake from the Worcester Braveheart - and Rose's Pioneer brother from St. John's High School.

Although Rose the Rebel has long lived in the hearts of NDA community members, she is now a physical representation of the community and will serve to inspire the NDA mission and vision for years to come.

## TENNESSEE

### Diocese of Nashville

It is always good news to proclaim when a new Catholic school is being built! Construction of the \$60.2 million elementary school, groundbreaking was in late May, marks the first of three phases of work on the beautiful 166-acre Nolensville Catholic Campus. The plans begin with opening St. Michael Academy with Pre-K through 3rd grade and then open a grade each year through 8th grade. Phase two of the campus will be the building of St. Mother Teresa Church and phase three will be the construction of a high school. Timing, design and cost of the second



Ryan Clever - Archdiocese of Atlanta



and third phases of the project are yet to be determined.

St. Michael Academy will share the campus with St. Mother Teresa Catholic Church. The parish celebrated its first Mass as a community in September 2021, with 200 registered parishioners. Today, the number of registered parishioners is 1,100.

## FLORIDA

### Diocese of Palm Beach

The Gerstner Family Foundation has awarded the Diocese of Palm Beach a grant of \$1.68 million over the next seven years to continue the Louis V. Gerstner, Jr. Distinguished Scholars Program at the three diocesan high schools: Cardinal Newman High School (West Palm Beach), John Carroll High School (Fort Pierce) and St. John Paul II Academy (Boca Raton).

Bishop Gerald M. Barbarito expressed his appreciation for the gift by saying, "The Diocese of Palm Beach is grateful



Diocese of Palm Beach



Diocese of Palm Beach



to Mr. Lou Gerstner and the Gerstner Family Foundation for their continued support of academic excellence in our three Catholic high schools. These scholarships assist families with outstanding students, who have financial need, to be able to attend our Catholic high schools. I know that these families appreciate this wonderful opportunity offered to their children."

Each of the three high schools will be awarded \$35,000 per year per class for the freshman classes entering high school from 2022 through 2025. Each high school may award four to seven scholarships of \$5,000 or \$10,000 per school year, not to exceed \$35,000 for each school. The scholarship is for the Distinguished Scholar's four years of high school.

Louis V. Gerstner, Jr. served as chief executive officer and chairman of the board of IBM Corporation from April 1993 to March 2002 and chairman until his retirement in December 2002. Following IBM, Mr. Gerstner joined The Carlyle Group, a global private equity

firm located in Washington, D.C. He served as chairman from January 2003 until October 2008 and upon retiring from that position, he continued as a senior advisor to Carlyle through September 2016.

## OREGON

### Diocese of Salem

In March, Queen of Peace School was selected as one of the regional winners of the 30th annual ExploraVision challenge, the largest K-12 science competition designed to build problem-solving, critical thinking and collaboration skills. "Fungi Plastivore Purifier" advanced to the national phase of the competition, where the team won first place and a \$10,000 U.S. Series EE Savings Bonds (at maturity) and other great prizes.

Members of the 23 winning teams have each received a Chromebook to support the development virtual posters, website and videos for the national phase of the competition. The FPP Team Jonathan Barra(3rd grade), Esau Segura (4th grade), Claire

Stout (4th grade), Audrey Wiegall (4th grade), and coach Maureen Foelkl have invented a solution to change the world!

## TEXAS

### Diocese of Fort Worth

The Nolan Catholic High School Robotics team, FRC Team 4206, finished off its spectacular season at the World Championship Robotics Competition with their robot, Ronin, finishing the quarterfinals and ranking 24th in the Newton Division. The Robo Vikes were the tenth highest scoring team and were quickly selected as the number one pick for the fifth Alliance Captain.

After a hard-fought set of quarter-final matches, the Number Five Alliance fell to the Number Four Alliance in a best-two-out-of-three matchup. Ronin also was awarded the Newton Division Industrial Design Award sponsored by General Motors. Robo Vikes finished the 2022 season with its best year on record with an overall score of 67-20 and tied for the most awards received worldwide with 11 this season!



Robovikes - Diocese of Fort Worth