

Twenty-three teens to be honored as outstanding Christian Leaders.

The Diocese of Youngstown's Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry wishes to acknowledge the twenty-three recipients of the 2009 Eagle of the Cross Award. The Eagle of the Cross, created by the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry and introduced to the diocese in 1999 by Bishop Thomas J. Tobin, is given each year to a group of extraordinary high school juniors and seniors who model the dedication, integrity, values and promise for Church and society. The award is presented to teens, in the six counties of Northeastern Ohio that comprise the Diocese of Youngstown, who model Christian discipleship and exemplify the qualities of moral integrity, prayer, good works and Christian leadership in their school and parish communities. While a limited number of recipients are chosen for the Eagle of the Cross Award, they are a just a sample of the many admirable young people of the diocese.

This year's candidates were chosen from 61 nominations that highlighted parish, school, and community involvement of 55 youths. A maximum of two Eagle of the Cross Awards are presented for each of the six Catholic high schools, and each of the six counties of the diocese. The recipients of 2009 Eagle of the Cross Award, as well as all of the nominees should be commended for their positive witness to their Catholic Christian faith and the value of youth involvement in parish, school and community.

The following twenty-three teens will be presented the 2009 Eagle of the Cross Award at a special liturgy and awards banquet on Wednesday, April 29, 2009 at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, 343 Via Mount Carmel, Youngstown. The banquet is by invitation only, but the liturgy, which begins at 6:00 p.m., is open to the public.

<u>County/Parish Category</u>	(Parish—High School—Year—County)
Mr. Eric Holodnak	(St. Joseph Calasanctius Parish—Jefferson Area High School—Junior—Ashtabula)
Mr. Anthony Oscar	(St. Mary Parish—Grand Valley High—Senior—Ashtabula)
Mr. Eric Brown	(St. John the Evangelist Parish—Carrollton High School—Senior—Columbiana)
Miss Ursula Buzzacco	(St. Paul the Apostle Parish—Springfield Local High School—Senior—Mahoning)
Miss Laura Caskey	(St. Christine Parish—Canfield High School—Senior—Mahoning)
Miss Kathleen Kubek	(Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish—Notre Dame Cathedral Latin High School—Junior—Portage)
Mr. Thomas Wintering	(Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish—Walsh Jesuit High School—Junior—Portage)
Mr. Dean Carson, Jr.	(St. Louis Parish—Louisville High School—Senior—Stark)
Miss Brianna Kelley	(St. Joan of Arc Parish—Perry High School—High School—Senior—Stark)
Mr. João Ciuba	(Blessed Sacrament Parish—Champion High School—Junior—Trumbull)
Mr. Matthew Zwilling	(St. Mary and St. Joseph Parish—Southeast High School—Junior—Trumbull)

<u>Catholic High School Category</u>	(Parish—High School—Year—County)
Miss Carly Penna	(Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish—SS. John & Paul High School—Junior—Ashtabula)
Miss Mikenzie Zullo	(Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish—SS John & Paul High School—Junior—Ashtabula)
Miss Jodi Novotny	(St. Christine Parish—Cardinal Mooney High School—Senior—Mahoning)
Miss Alexandra Sierra	(St. Paul the Apostle Parish—Cardinal Mooney High School—Senior—Mahoning)
Mr. Marshall Finelli	(St. Rose Parish—Ursuline High School—Senior—Mahoning)
Mr. James Mszanski, Jr.	(St. Stanislaus Parish—Ursuline High School—Senior—Mahoning)
Miss Samantha Bagnola	(St. Michael the Archangel Parish—Central Catholic High School—Junior—Stark)
Mr. Luke Heck	(St. Joseph Parish—Central Catholic High School—Junior—Stark)
Mr. Eric Vagedes	(St. Peter Parish—St. Thomas Aquinas High School—Senior—Stark)
Miss Hannah Thompson	(St. Peter Parish—St. Thomas Aquinas High School—Senior—Stark)
Mr. Michael Fronk	(Blessed Sacrament Parish—John F. Kennedy High School—Senior—Trumbull)
Miss Molly Rogers	(St. Pius X Parish—John F. Kennedy High School—Senior—Trumbull)