Diocese of Scranton Catholic High Schools Class of 2021

Holy Redeemer High School

WILKES-BARRE — Holy Redeemer High School was the first Diocesan secondary school to hold spring commencement exercises when graduation ceremonies were staged on June 2 at the Mohegan Sun Arena at Casey Plaza in Wilkes-Barre Township.

A total of 130 Holy Redeemer seniors, led by Principal Doreen S. Dougherty, were conferred their diplomas by Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, who also addressed the graduates and offered benediction.

The class’ Baccalaureate Mass was celebrated June 1 in school’s McCarthy Auditorium. Serving as principal celebrant and homilist was Father Seth Wasnock, chaplain of Holy Redeemer High School.

The 2021 Holy Redeemer class valedictorian is Patrick DelBalso, son of Patrick and Leane DelBalso of Plains. This year’s Holy Redeemer salutatorian is Lauren Patrick, daughter of Edward and Andrea Patrick of Mountain Top.

Of the total number of graduates, 120 will be enrolling in colleges or universities to further their education, including 49 who will be attending Catholic institutions of higher learning. The 2021 Holy Redeemer senior class merited a total of 690 scholarship awards worth more than $35 million.

“We have been blessed with our God-given talents to boldly go out into the world to make positive changes. The world is a beautiful place with endless opportunities just waiting for us to shine. Class of 2021, be kind, be yourself, be amazing!”

— Patrick DelBalso Valedictory Address Excerpt

Saint John Neumann Regional Academy

WILLIAMSPORT — Graduation ceremonies were conducted for the Saint John Neumann Regional Academy Class of 2021 on June 3 at the Church of Saint Boniface in Williamsport.

Saint John Neumann Principal Alisia McNamee presided over the presentation of diplomas to the 15 members of this year’s graduating class, which were conferred by Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, who also offered remarks and the closing benediction.

The Baccalaureate Mass was celebrated June 1 at Immaculate Conception Church in Williamsport, where Father Bert Kozen, host pastor, served as principal celebrant and homilist.

This year’s Saint John Neumann valedictorian is Sydney Rosenthal, daughter of Dr. Marc Rosenthal and Lorraine Seiffert, Williamsport. Salutatorian honors were bestowed upon Faith Reid, daughter of Thomas and Sarah Reid, residents of Williamsport.

All of the 2021 Saint John Neumann graduates will be pursuing further education on the university/college level, including four class members who plan to attend Catholic institutions of higher learning. As a class, the Saint John Neumann seniors amassed 21 academic scholarships worth $1.4 million.

“So many great adventures await us. My only sorrow today is that we don’t experience them together. I’m honored to have the privilege to stand up here today and recognize each and every one of us for the unique individuals we were, are, and will become.”

— Sydney Rosenthal Valedictory Address Excerpt

“The education we received at Saint John Neumann not only drove each of us to succeed, but it also created within us a deeper understanding of our faith and how we can rely on it once we leave. With the weekly Masses, theology classes, and prayer integrated into our schedules, each one of us had a chance to root ourselves in Christ.”

— Faith Reid Salutatory Address Excerpt
Notre Dame High School

EAST STROUDSBURG — Commencement exercises were held June 4 for Notre Dame High School, during which 40 graduates received their diplomas from Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, who also offered the principal address and closing benediction.

Pocono Raceway in Long Pond provided the setting for the graduation ceremonies for the Class of 2021 at Notre Dame, where Jeffrey N. Lyons serves as principal.

The Baccalaureate Mass was celebrated June 3 in the school’s theater by Father Ryan Glenn, chaplain of Notre Dame High School.

Earning co-valedictorian honors for this year’s Notre Dame graduating class were Aaron Bailey, son of Ronald and Sandra Bailey of Tobyhanna; and Rachel Krechel, daughter of Steven and Kelli Ann Krechel, Saylorsburg.

Nearly the entire 2021 Notre Dame senior class will continue their education at the university/college level, including ten students who will be attending Catholic institutions of higher learning. The class received a total of 86 scholarship awards valued at nearly $7.5 million.

“Prepare for the next journey and never forget that you are resilient! We dealt with year-long challenges that no other class in Notre Dame school history has dealt with and we got through it all.”

— Aaron Bailey
Valedictory Address Excerpt

“Our families and teachers taught many things, including how to be kind and considerate, and we have built friendships on these principles. We will remember the support we have given each other when things were tough, and the celebrations we shared, even for the smallest achievements.”

— Rachel Krechel
Valedictory Address Excerpt

Holy Cross High School

DUNMORE — The Mohegan Sun Arena at Casey Plaza in Wilkes-Barre Township provided the setting for the annual commencement of Holy Cross High School.

Graduation ceremonies for the 62 members of the 2021 Holy Cross senior class were held on June 4, led by school Principal Benjamin D. Tolerico.

Presiding over the commencement exercises and conferring the high school diplomas was Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, who addressed the Holy Cross graduates and gave the benediction.

The Baccalaureate Mass was celebrated June 3 at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton, with Father Cyril D. Edwards, school chaplain, serving as principal celebrant and homilist.

The 2012 Holy Cross valedictorian is Peyton Phillips, daughter of Nancy and Justin Phillips of Nicholson. Class salutatorian is Norah Kelly, daughter of Meg Kelly and Thomas Pappas, Scranton.

Nearly 95 percent of the Holy Cross graduation class will be attending institutions of higher learning, with 29 graduates planning to enroll at Catholic colleges or universities. As a whole, the class earned 392 post-secondary scholarship awards totaling almost $17 million.

“We will continue to strive. We will continue to achieve, serve and prevail. We will indubitably blaze trails where none has gone before and have many great stories to tell. God bless the Class of 2021.”

— Peyton Phillips
Valedictory Address Excerpt

“We have been well prepared by Holy Cross. We have been prepared in not only academics but also in care and concern for others. The future might not be exactly how you planned it and it likely will not be what you expect. But we must keep our faith in God, Who has been a loving and influential presence throughout our time at Holy Cross.”

— Norah Kelly
Salutatory Address Excerpt
The Diocese of Scranton Catholic Schools Office recognizes these Seton Award winners for their achievement on the high school entrance examination and their enrollment in a Diocesan high school for the 2021-2022 school year. Families of these individuals are commended for their commitment to Catholic education, and the students are congratulated for this distinguished honor. For these students and for all young people in our Catholic schools, Catholic education impacts their formation by incorporating a strong emphasis on the spiritual that is evident in all components of the learning process. Our vision for these students is to provide them an educational experience that promotes a lifelong learning in the faith, and one that prepared them to be responsible, competent, and confident persons as citizens of our country and world. In addition, our schools are dedicated to providing a loving, safe and nurturing environment where the young learn respect for themselves and for all persons.
To the students who have benefited from a Catholic education, and to those who continue their educational journey in a Catholic environment, we salute you and pray that God, through the intercession of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, guides you in

Faith, Hope and Love.
Congratulations Catholic High School Graduates!

Class of 2021

HOLY CROSS
Jack O’Malley Allardyce
Kathryn Grace Augustine
Bria Ann Beggin
Emma Lauren Beilman
Patrick Michael Bennie

Alice Julia Jones
Kevin Joseph Jumper
Will Anthony Kalinich
Robert J. Kane

David Christopher Romanski
Corey Thomas Scochin
Caroline Grace Shaffern
Andrew Nicholas Skutack
Alexis Marie Tanana
Mikele – Danilo A. Tenev
Connor Benjamin Tone
Rebecca Maureen Tone
Kristina Lynn Tranovich
Elizabeth Wallace
Douglas Patrick Walsh

HOLY REDEEMER
Dominic Michael Alberti
Matthew Albrecht
Theresa Erin Amerise
Amelia Rose Anderson
Logan M. Atcavage
Aubrey Lynn Ayre
Amelia K. Banks
Laura Bednar
Krista Marie Biago
Addison Teresa Bielski
Isabelle Paige Birmer
Rachel Grace Black
Molly Marie Blaskiewicz
Lucia Asuntina Bonk

Michael James Brown
John Michael Bush
Anna Elizabeth Capaci
Matthew Australia Carty
Kyle Bernard Castle
Kimberly Ann Clocker
Kailey Marie Considine
MaKaylee Brianna Crake
Patrick David Michael DelBalso
Madison Jane Dewees
Michael G. Dotzel Jr.
Collin Patrick Dougherty
Emily Dairin Dougherty
Jacob Drevitch
Daniel David Drost
David Joseph Durko
Katelyn Rebecca Engel
Jacob Lawrence English
Gianna Lyn Evans
Amanda Clare Feher
Tanner Fenstermacher
Ava Rose Fino
Alexandra Fumanti
Anthony Francis Giovinazzo
Kenly Jane Golanoski
Amelia Frances Grudkowski
Alexander J. Hajkowski
Sean Carson Hand
Rose Kathryn Hayward
Emmslie Hernandez
Christopher Hernandez
Sierra Nicole Hines
Tyler Joseph Hoedl

Jillian Frances Brennan
Sarah Lynne Callejas
Paige Marie Caskey
Lucca Anthony Cerminaro
Kelsey Anne Conlon
Laurel Marie Cortazar
Arabella Cecile Cox
James B. Davis IV
Matthew Adrian Dec
Carter Elizabeth Englehardt
Kylie Noelle Engleman
Ryan Philip Evans
James Michael Fay
Emily Jane Ferguson
Kylene Rian Gale
Patrick Robert Gilman Jr.
Emily Rose Haikes
William Robert Hanna
Lauren Elizabeth Hegedus
Ryan Joseph Huester
Amaya S. Jackson
Norah Ann Kelly
Molly Marie Landsiedel
Thomas Theodore Lee
Abigail Grace Lentowski
Mark Lopez
Brandon Ludovici Jr.
David Joseph Mariotti
Julia Hockey Mazur
Erin Elena McGee
Catherine Grace McGovern
Jacob Richard McLane
Nathan Patrick McLane
Ashlyn Marie McNally
Tyler Loren Mendicino
Samuel Morales
Sarah Elizabeth Murphy
Alexander Joseph Nole
Peyton Olivia Phillips
Cristia Lourdes Ives Polizzi
William Henry Roeber II
Craig T. Roman

John Joseph Jamiolkowski III
Olivia C. Kaluzny
Connor James Kane
Ryan Patrick Kane
Zachary James Kehoe
Hannah Elisabeth Kern
Peter Michael Khoudary
Zev Isaac Kornfeld
Ethan Christopher Kozden
Brett Anthony Kugler
Kelci Charlee Kuren
Christina Marie Kurlandski
Abigail Rose Kush
James Thomas Lavan
Tyler Lee
Olivia Kathryn Lewis
Ayva Rose Lisowski
Kathleen Margaret Magda
Emily N. Mahler
Mr. Jason W.S. Morrison, M.B.A. • Diocesan Secretary of Catholic Education/Chief Executive Officer
Mrs. Kristen Donohue, M.Ed., Superintendent of Catholic Schools
Ms. Kathleen A. Gilmartin, M.Ed. • Assistant Superintendent of Catholic Schools
Mrs. Michele Long, M.Ed. • Assistant Superintendent of Catholic Schools

OFFICE OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
DIOCESE OF SCRANTON
“Kindness is Contagious”

Wyoming Area Catholic School donates money to C.E.O. as part of pilot project

EXETER – When 150 students leave their classroom and head outdoors in late May – you would expect a lot of noise. The sound coming from the kids at Wyoming Area Catholic School on May 27, 2021, did not involve talking or joking around however.

The sound of coins – quarters, dimes, nickels and pennies – rattling around loudly filled a large tent on the school’s front lawn.

“That’s inspirational,” Rabbi Yossi Schulman told the students during a special presentation celebrating the school’s ARK Charity Program. “ARK” stands for Acts of Random Kindness.

As part of a pilot program, each student received a small plastic bank in the shape of an ark. The students collected money outside of school whenever they performed a selfless act. The kids brought the money to school and counted it weekly to highlight the power of collective giving.

The students chose to donate all of the money to the Commission on Economic Opportunity (CEO), which helps to fight food insecurity in northeastern Pennsylvania.

“Tall would hold the door open for people in the morning and when I’m at my house, my grandma would ask me to carry the bags and I would usually do it,” 10-year-old Cayden Richards said.

“I helped my mom with the laundry,” 10-year-old Julianna O’Hop added.

Rabbi Schulman, president of the Unite the World organization, asked the Diocese of Scranton if one of its schools would participate in the pilot project and Wyoming Area Catholic School was selected.

“You have done such a phenomenal job,” principal Eileen Rischoff told the students as the students and community members gathered to celebrate the project’s success.

Students from Wyoming Area Catholic School receive a helping hand thanks to Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton.

As part of the reason why the students had such fun with the project was because Wyoming Area Catholic School built a large ark, resembling Noah’s Ark, out of boxes.

“Kindness is contagious,” he said.

Gretchen Hunt, Resource Development Director for C.E.O., called the students an “inspiration.”

“You’ve turned not just yourselves, but your whole family and your extended family into givers in demonstrating acts of kindness every day,” Hunt said.

Hunt explained that the funding the students collected will help children who don’t have enough food to eat at home.

“A lot of times, hunger, especially in families with children goes unseen,” she added. “It could be the kid sitting next to you in class, it could be the family that lives down the street that you play with after school and we don’t see it unless somebody tells you and that’s a hard thing to tell somebody when you’re struggling because you’re hungry.”

Students enjoyed taking part in the project.

“I love the fact that my school was given the opportunity to do this and help out our community and other people in need,” 12-year-old Isabella Falzone said. “This has just been a great opportunity for me to grow in my faith and really learn valuable life lessons about donating time and money and doing little acts of kindness.”

“I was really inspired and I thought it was really cool that our school was able to donate so much money in that short period of time that we had to do it,” O’Hop added.

“It makes me feel really good that our school can raise so much money and that every kid in the school knows how important it is to raise money for other people.”

Part of the reason why the students had such fun with the project was because Wyoming Area Catholic School built a large ark, resembling Noah’s Ark, out of boxes.

For every $5 donated, students got to color an ark, resembling Noah’s Ark, out of boxes.

Students from Wyoming Area Catholic School build a large ark, resembling Noah’s Ark, out of boxes.

On the day of the school presentation, the school donated a $2,000 check to C.E.O. to signify the students’ collection up until that point. By the end of the year, the school raised more than $5,000 total.

“Looking out at you today is perhaps one of the greatest inspirations I’ve seen in a very long time. You are our future! You are so inspiring to me personally, to our community, because of the way you grasped this project. You built the ark, you collected coins and money in such a short period of time, you understand the idea of giving back. Please never forget that. It is our responsibility to look out for others because if we don’t do it, who will?” Charles Barber, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Luzerne Foundation, told the students.

As the program wrapped up and each student deposited their coins in buckets to be tallied, one overriding theme became apparent. Rabbi Schulman emphasized it.

“Kindness is contagious,” he said.

House Call: Catholic Social Services distributes food to senior apartments

DUNMORE – Residents living in two apartment complexes in Lackawanna County recently received a helping hand thanks to Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton.

On May 26, more than 50 elderly residents living at Saint Catherine Manor in Dunmore received fresh food and vegetables delivered to their door. A similar delivery took place for residents of Saint Michael on the Hill in Jessup on June 10.

Karen Beavers, a resident at Saint Catherine Manor for the last six years, greatly appreciated the extra assistance.

“Everything helps. Every little bit helps when you’re a senior,” Beavers said.

Ryan Stefanovich, a Catholic Social Services Relief Services Case Manager, said the residents received a number of different items.

“We have meat, chicken, hamburger, several canned vegetables, orange juice, tea and other things that the residents can use,” Stefanovich explained.

Catholic Social Services worked with Schiff’s to get all of the food delivered.

“Every little bit helps, especially in these unprecedented times,” Stefanovich added, referring to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Beavers said the food delivery is appreciated by residents – because many have medical conditions that make it hard to make frequent trips to the grocery store.

Asked what she will make with the food delivered to her, she responded, “I’ll probably make barbeque chicken!”

James Harris, an employee of Saint Francis Kitchen, hands food to Ryan Stefanovich and other volunteers, who helped to distribute it to seniors at Saint Catherine Manor in Dunmore on May 26, 2021.