



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF KALAMAZOO

NEWS

Office of Communications

215 N. Westnedge Avenue

Kalamazoo, MI 49007

269-903-0163

The Diocese of Kalamazoo announces first St. Thomas Aquinas Scholarship winners

May 20, 2016 (KALAMAZOO, MICH.): Bishop Bradley, on behalf of the Diocese of Kalamazoo recognized ten High School Senior students with the first-ever St. Thomas Aquinas Scholarship, awards at a banquet last night at the Beacon Club, Portage, Mich. The inaugural awards are bestowed upon the top ten Senior capstone projects from the three Catholic high schools in the diocese.

Three students from Hackett Catholic Prep, Kalamazoo, received the top awards of the St. Thomas Aquinas Scholarship from the Diocese of Kalamazoo.

Caroline Yapp received the first place \$5,000 scholarship for her capstone project titled, “Does the Galileo Affair Reveal the Catholic Church’s Opposition to Science?”

Amanda Lawrence was awarded second place for her presentation entitled, “The Fight for Life: A Pro-Life Response to Justifications to Abortion.”

Genevieve Bogedain, whose project was entitled “Morality of Embryonic Stem Cell Research” was awarded the third place prize of \$2,000.

“I’m honored on behalf of the entire Diocese of Kalamazoo to recognize the outstanding work of these Catholic school students in the first of what I hope are many years of the St. Thomas Aquinas Scholarship awards,” said Bishop Paul J. Bradley. “The depth of all the students’ topics shows they can wrestle with the challenging moral and theological questions of our day much in the spirit of St. Thomas Aquinas, a doctor of the Catholic Church.”

The senior capstone project is a new graduation requirement for all diocesan high school students aimed at recognizing outstanding achievement. Students select their theological topic at the end of their junior year. They then conduct research, prepare a report and present it to a panel of judges. Scores are tabulated based on a variety of factors including demonstration and depth of knowledge on the theology topic, research quality and written and oral presentation skills.

“The students’ presentations were outstanding and inspiring,” says Margaret Erich, Superintendent for the Catholic schools in the diocese. “Their work is a testament to the outstanding instruction and mentorship they’ve received. We’re thrilled to be able to recognize these students with scholarship monies to assist them in their college careers.”

This was the first class of students at the three Diocese of Kalamazoo High Schools to complete the capstone project and compete for one of ten St. Thomas Aquinas Scholarships.

Seven runners-up were awarded a \$500 scholarship: Hackett Catholic Prep, Kalamazoo – Rebecca Radomsky, Mitchell Yelton; Lake Michigan Catholic High School, St. Joseph – Sarah McCoy, Ryan Stachowski; St. Philip Catholic Central High School, Battle Creek – Stephen Graham, Patrick Sprague, Emily Wesner.

All ten scholarship recipients were recognized at an award banquet with Bishop Paul J. Bradley on Thursday, May 19 at The Beacon Club, Portage. [see WINNERS for more detailed information.]

-30-

Caption for group photo:

Back row: (left to right): Patrick Sprague, St. Philip Catholic High School; Stephen Graham, St. Philip Catholic High School; Ryan Stachowski, Lake Michigan Catholic High School; Mitchell Yelton, Hackett Catholic Prep.

Front row: Amanda Lawrence, Hackett Catholic Prep; Sarah McCoy, Lake Michigan Catholic High School; Bishop Paul J. Bradley; Caroline Yapp, Hackett Catholic Prep; Rebecca Radomsky, Hackett Catholic Prep; and Genevieve Bogedain, Hackett Catholic Prep.

Additional individual photos available upon request.

The Catholic Diocese of Kalamazoo is the territory of Catholic churches and community led by Bishop Paul J. Bradley. The diocese was founded in 1971 when the Second Vatican Council called for

the creation of smaller dioceses so that bishops could be more available to the people they serve. Today the diocese encompasses 5,337 square miles of nine counties in southwest Michigan: Allegan, Barry, Van Buren, Kalamazoo, Calhoun, Berrien, Cass, St. Joseph and Branch and includes 59 parishes as well as 23 Catholic schools. www.dioceseofkalamazoo.org.

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS:

First Place - \$5,000

Caroline Yapp

Hackett Catholic Prep

Daughter of Petra Jodelis-Yapp

Does the Galileo Affair Reveal the Catholic Church's Opposition to Science?

2nd Place - \$3,000:

Genevieve Bogedain

Hackett Catholic Prep

Daughter of Jaret and Tonya Bogedain

Morality of Embryonic Stem Cell Research

3rd Third- \$2,000:

Amanda Lawrence

Hackett Catholic Prep

Daughter of John and Danelle Sweet

The Fight for Life: A Pro-Life Response to Justifications to Abortion

Runners up: \$500 scholarships awarded

Stephen Graham

St. Philip Catholic Central High School

Son of Daniel and Julie Graham

Butler University

Economics and Finance

Is Moral Relativism a Defensible Ethical System?

Sarah McCoy

Lake Michigan Catholic High School

Daughter of Richard and Michaelynn McCoy

Hope College

Nursing

Requirements to get into Heaven and

Who God Admits

Rebecca Radomsky

Hackett Catholic Prep

Daughter of Alan and Michele Radomsky

How did the Catholic Church Initially Respond to the Theories of Charles Darwin on Evolution?

Patrick Sprague

St. Philip Catholic Central High School

Son of David and Tina Sprague
Why are Churches Beautiful

Ryan Stachowski
Lake Michigan Catholic High School
Son of Leonard Stachowski
The Stigmata

Emily Wesner
St. Philip Catholic Central High School
Daughter of Robert Coy and Julie Hanna
Explaining the Appearance of Stigmata

Mitchell Yelton
Hackett Catholic Prep
Don of Ballard and Lori Yelton
Response to New Atheists