

24th Annual Eagle of the Cross Award

The "Eagle of the Cross" is an award given annually in the Diocese of Youngstown to outstanding juniors and seniors in high school, who show particular zeal in the improvement of their own parish ministry programs, high school ministry teams or youth work in general within the Diocese.

Nominees must be Catholic and exemplify the qualities of moral integrity, prayer, good works and Christian leadership. This award was created by the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry, and is the highest honor our diocese presents youth. In the Diocese of Youngstown, a maximum of 3 awards per county for parish involvement and 2 awards per diocesan Catholic high school are awarded each year.

Nominations accepted beginning in December and
Must be received at the Diocesan Office
By 3 p.m. on Friday, February 11, 2022
(Please plan ahead and Mail by February 9)

Mail or deliver nominations to:
Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry
Attn: Fr. Ryan Furlong
144 West Wood Street
Youngstown, OH 44503
(NO Faxed copies of the nomination will be accepted)

EAGLE OF THE CROSS NOMINATION INSTRUCTIONS

- Nominations may be submitted by an adult, i.e. pastor, parish staff, school staff, friend of the family, who has personally observed the teen and can attest to his/her Catholic-Christian leadership. The nominator may consult with the youth and his/her parents, but should focus on the nominator's observations. Multiple nominations (maximum of 3) for a young person will be judged together in the stated category. (Please note that the *quality* of the nomination is of utmost importance, not the number of nominations.)
- Answers to the essay questions on this form are the principle material used for judging. Please give specific examples in all 6 categories. Please be thorough. Give descriptive information in order to assist the judges.
- Excerpts from your nomination may appear in the program (should your nominee be selected as a recipient.) All nominees will be notified of the nomination. A teen may only receive this award once.
- This award is not geared toward quantitative hours of service, but to the integrity of the individual and how well he or she is perceived as an outstanding Catholic Christian as expressed in this nomination.
- Nominees in each category should have their most significant participation in the category for which they are nominated (i.e. School category: mostly school activities or County category: mostly parish activities). However, well-rounded teens do provide a stronger example, so include other involvement(s) as well.
- If nominating a youth in the Catholic High School Category, please note **non-mandatory** activities/service, as this award honors those students who go above and beyond expectations. Be sure to get the signature of the school principal AND parish pastor.
- The teen should also be registered at and participating at least minimally at a Catholic parish.
- ALL completed forms must be signed by the nominee's PASTOR. For the CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL category, signature of the School President or Principal is also required. Please keep this in mind in regards to the nomination deadline by allowing yourself time to obtain the appropriate signature(s).

Information about the judging process and Hints for Providing a Solid Nomination

Be sure to review this closely PRIOR to completing the form:

Nominees receive from 0 – 4 points in each area (4 = outstanding examples given, 3 = good examples, 2 = adequate examples, 1 = minimal examples, 0 = no examples given). The importance of **EXAMPLES** cannot be stressed enough; therefore, samples below show those that would receive higher points than others:

1. How does this young person **Contribute to Parish or School Programs**? (Highlight most that for which the teen is nominated, but feel free to add the other as well.) Is this person involved in parish/school programs—youth/campus ministry, liturgical ministry, service, peer ministry, prayer groups, etc.?
Helpful: Jenny trained as a peer minister at her high school so she could help others who have been bullied and marginalized to feel accepted and to know how important they are. She is also a Lector, choir member and leader in her parish youth Bible study.
Not Helpful: Fred is a gifted second baseman on the school baseball team.
2. In what ways is this youth involved in **Personal Outreach to the larger Community/Diocese**? Is this person involved in serving the wider community through service and justice activities? Has this person participated in any diocesan, regional or national or international programs? (i.e. Diocesan Youth Convention, National Catholic Youth Conference, Service trip, Evangelization and Catechesis Conference, Liturgy Day, Chrism Mass, Night to Honor Mary or other diocesan celebrations, etc.)
Helpful: After returning from a great experience at the Diocesan Youth Convention, Luis encouraged a group of friends to join him each Friday after school to assist elderly and handicapped persons in his neighborhood with yard work that Fall and snow shoveling in the winter. He also went to NCYC and the Chrism Mass for two years.
Not Helpful: Alice completed her 26 hours of service to fulfill her requirement for school.
3. In what ways is the **Prayer and Spiritual Life** of this young person evident? Is there evidence that this person is an active, practicing Catholic, and developing spiritually? Does s/he engage in spiritually-focused programs and experiences?
Helpful: Bill asked the pastor last year if he could train to be an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist for the parish. Since Bill was commissioned he is always present for his scheduled mass and distributes Holy Communion with great reverence. This year, he began taking communion to his homebound neighbor and is very prayerful during the distribution. He also became a Lector, and he not only 'rehearses' the reading, but completes the preparation workbook he received from the parish. I've seen his Bible, and can tell it is well used!
Not Helpful: I have seen Mark at Mass with his family.
4. How does this young person demonstrate **Moral Integrity**? Is there evidence of soundness, and adherence to a code of moral values guided by conscience or ethical judgment based on Gospel values?
Helpful: Maria displays moral integrity by reminding her friends and acquaintances that she will not listen to or participate in gossip. It is important to her to see the good in others and she always takes the time to compliment others for their good deeds. She tweets Scripture and quotes from saints. I overheard her turn down an invitation to a party when she learned that drinking would be taking place.
Not helpful: Jane is a good girl who is always smiling.
5. In what ways does this young person exhibit **Catholic-Christian Leadership**? Does this person promote and model gospel values for others, especially his/her peers? Are examples provided of this teen leading others? Highlight leadership roles taken at all levels.
Helpful: Brigid was discerned to serve as a co-director for the parish youth retreat as a high school junior last year, and she was organized, on-time, polite and prayerful. She made sure that every meeting began and ended with prayer, and she also gave an inspiring witness talk in which she shared a number of ways in which she experienced God's love. The other teens really seemed inspired by her, and she was asked to serve as co-director again this year as a senior. She also helps train younger altar servers.
Not helpful: Louis played the role of the Narrator in "Our Town" and is in the Spanish Club.
6. How does this youth **Inspire You** as a Catholic Christian? This is a chance for the nominator to explain why you think this particular teen is worthy of the Eagle of the Cross Award in general as he or she lives his or faith and has impacted you.
Helpful: Martin has been blessed with a beautiful singing voice which I enjoy when he cantors at the parish and at school. I was impressed to hear that he goes into the grade school CCD classes monthly and Vacations Bible School each summer to lead music. Martin is also working on his Eagle Scout project this year, is an honor student, and is on the school speech and debate team. I think it is inspiring for smaller children to see a teen boy so involved and not afraid to sing, and it inspires me as an adult as well as I know the Church is good hands for our future!
Not helpful: My grandson is the sweetest boy.

If you have any questions, ask Fr. Ryan Furlong at (330) 744-8451 or
rfurlong@youngstowndiocese.org



24th Annual Eagle of the Cross Nomination Form

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE after reviewing the Instructions

NOMINEE Information (This information needs to be accurate as we contact every nominee)

Nominee Name _____

Nominee Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Nominee Email address _____

Nominee Phone Number _____ Gender Female Male

Nominee High School _____ Grade Junior Senior

Parish Information County Ashtabula Columbiana Mahoning Portage Stark Trumbull

Nominee Parish _____ City _____

Pastor/Administrator/ PL Name (printed) _____

Pastor/Admin./PL **Signature** (required) _____

Nomination Category (check **one** per nomination)

County (Parish)

Catholic High School (within the diocese) -Principal/President Signature _____

Nominator Information

Nominated by _____ Nominator Phone Number _____

Nominator Email Address _____

(must be provided if you wish "receipt" of the nomination at the diocese office)

Nominator relationship to the Nominee (teacher, CYM, Pastor, DRE, etc.) _____

PLEASE ANSWER ALL 6 QUESTIONS, use additional paper as needed (do not forget to include examples!)

1. How does this young person **Contribute to Parish or/and School Programs?** (Highlight most that for which the teen is nominated, but feel free to add the other as well.)

FOR OFFICE USE:

Date Rec'd _____

Nom'r notified _____

Complete _____

Notes:

2. In what ways is this youth involved in **Personal Outreach to the Larger Community & Diocese**?

3. In what ways is the **Prayer and Spiritual Life** of this young person evident?

4. How does this young person demonstrate **Moral Integrity**?

5. In what ways does this young person exhibit **Catholic-Christian Leadership**?

6. How does this Catholic youth **Inspire You**?