

EAGLE OF THE CROSS RECIPIENTS



The following are excerpts from the essays written about each Eagle of the Cross Recipient. (Nominators, please excuse the liberties taken with your work.)

Natalie Beene Bata

Senior

Natalie is a demonstration of moral integrity living as a teen in a complex world. Because of her commitment and own spiritual love of God she never has to be encouraged to attend Mass. Natalie has spoken to confirmation classes, attends Youth Ministry meetings, encourages all to come, be involved, be a Catholic Christian, and has inspired me to become a lector and communicant.

St. Patrick Parish, Hubbard
Hubbard High School

Christopher E. Burr

Junior

A reverent and faithful altar server and eucharistic minister, Christopher inspires by his gentle demeanor, patience, and smile. He understands what it means to do corporal works of mercy not only during Lent, but at all times. Christopher has helped his mother serving meals after funerals. His leadership and example make him a worthy candidate for the Eagle Of The Cross Award.

St. Joseph Calasanctius Parish, Jefferson
Ss. John and Paul High School

Michael Casale

Senior

An honor student during all four of his high school years, Michael has managed to mature with loving kindness in spite of the cultural pressures and temptations in today's society. His choices of friends and after school activities reflect his moral fiber. Michael's service is always done in a willing and purposeful spirit and he plans to continue serving God's people as a physician.

Ss. Cyril and Methodius Parish, Warren
John F. Kennedy High School

Jenna Marie Cintavey

Senior

Whether it is using her musical or acting talents, religious activities, or tutoring, Jenna approaches it with a great deal of zest. Jenna is a leader with strong convictions, never compromising her beliefs and is an all around student who participates in speech and debate. As a member of the National Forensic League she earned the NFL degree of merit.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Austintown
Ursuline High School

Britney Dermotta

Senior

From the time she was 4, Britney would get a Christmas gift for a needy child, a practice she continues now with her own money. When her father lost his job, she immediately went out and got a job. She has gone to West Virginia to help needy families with food and clothes. She helps wrap gifts, sings Christmas carols at nursing homes, and helps with parish dinners. Britney hopes to be an Art Teacher and has had some of her artwork displayed at the McDonough Art Museum.

St. Paul Parish, Salem
Salem High School



John Daniel Eicher

Senior

St. Michael Parish, Canfield
Canfield High School

J.D. assures other students that he is active in his faith life by choice, not by parental decree. Very dedicated in his prayer and spiritual life, he was an RCIA sponsor for another young boy. He has spent six summers working in Appalachia, and given many hours to the St. Vincent DePaul Soup Kitchen. Someone we can count on, he is a blessing at our parish as well as in our Community.

Mary Hull

Junior

Blessed Sacrament Parish, Warren
John F. Kennedy High School

Mary understands that her many gifts from God are a privilege. She unselfishly “gives back” her time to her church through youth group activities, such as children’s parties, babysitting, soup kitchen, coffee and donuts, church environment committee and Eucharistic Minister. Maintaining a 4.0 grade point average she helps students when needed.

Seung Wook Kim

Senior

Mother of Sorrows Parish, Ashtabula
Ss. John and Paul High School

Seung is a model of Catholic Christian ethics. His kindness, willingness to serve, ability to reach out to others comes from his belief in Jesus Christ. A man of honor Seung believes morals classes in Korea helped him establish a good value system. He is responsible for the school's WEB page, updating it daily, fixes computer problems and has helped the football team by becoming a kicker.

Christina Lapeus

Senior

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Aurora
Aurora High School

Chrissy has a very quiet, wholesome and spiritual presence about her. Maintaining high standards, she is humble about her strong moral standards and prays with children as an expression of her own faith. A dependable altar server and Eucharistic Minister, she plays in the choirs and band. Her style of leadership is one of modeling the role rather than preaching about it.

Hannah Elizabeth Mikus

Senior

St. Mary Parish, Orwell
Grand Valley High School

An altar server since third grade, Hannah is now busy mentoring the younger servers. She treats everyone with great respect and her kindness and compassion is always extended to the underdog. Hannah has been instrumental in bringing teens with no particular faith background into St. Mary's Youth Ministry activities. She is a Catholic Christian voice among the Christian youth in school.



Kara Miller

Junior

St. Joan of Arc Parish, Canton
Central Catholic High School

Most adults would be wise to imitate Kara's life of giving. She credits God for her talents, is spiritually mature, and prayer is part of her life. An awesome Lector, Kara belongs to our Community Service Committee, does home visits to shut-ins, and aids with the homeless shelter. Kara has presented the Hammer and Nails program, and now a parish outreach group called Mustard Seeds to our youth group.

Michelle Novotny

Senior

St. Christine Parish, Youngstown
Cardinal Mooney High School



Having a gentle and spiritual quality about her, being a true servant of the Lord, Michelle never seeks glory or recognition for her good deeds. Having mastered the art of multi-tasking, Michelle goes into the community and serves the elderly, children in preschools and

grade schools, and the poor. Daily prayer is most important to her and the Serenity prayer is her favorite.

Kerri Anne O'Donnell

Senior

St. Paul Parish, Salem

Salem High School

A regular at Mass and Youth Ministry, Kerri lives unselfishly and is always a friend to those less fortunate. Kerri encourages others through her words and actions to become more active in prayer and the spiritual side of life. She is involved in Project Support, the Spanish Club, Yearbook, and is mentoring an at-risk 2nd grader through the Big Brother/Big Sister Program.

Jana Porter

Senior

St. Joan of Arc Parish, Canton

Central Catholic High School

Jana spent over 75 hours of volunteer work this past summer and fall working with underprivileged children. Still a Girl Scout, Jana has earned her Marian Award. She also feels obligated to make the most of her academic talents by informally tutoring classmates. Demonstrating her commitment, she donated her money to bring a well to a small town in Central America, Adopt a Family.

Elizabeth Pugh

Junior

St. Michael Parish, Canfield

Ursuline High School

Always putting the needs of others ahead of herself, Liz has started a support group to encourage handicapped children, including her brother. A strong stance on pro-life, she has marched in front of an Abortion Clinic. She has donated her hair to Wigs for Children, will be giving a witness talk during the Celebrate weekend this April, and can even be found wiping tables after donuts and coffee.

Michael Arthur Ramirez

Senior

St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Boardman

Cardinal Mooney High School

Michael is a gentle leader who makes people feel welcomed and respected. He challenges the "haves" of this world to share with the "have-nots." Not afraid to "jump in" he has helped with the Lenten Fish Fry, and the St. Vincent de Paul Soup Kitchen. Having great reverence and respect for the Eucharist, Michael was a server for the Diocesan liturgy on the Celebration of the Blessings of Aging.

Brian Christopher Ross

Senior

St. Robert Bellarmine Parish, Cortland

Lakeview High School

Brian was an altar server since the third grade, and now plays the piano with a group of college students at Mass each week. He participates in youth ministry service projects, such as breakfasts, and 30 Hour Famine. His articles for the school paper are never petty and reflect deep Christian values. He is a bright young man whose perceptions of life and events are filtered through a Christian screen.

Patrick Arden Tohill

Senior

Ss. Philip and James Parish, Canal Fulton

Central Catholic High School

Quick to offer help, Patrick is always enthusiastic and participates in a wide variety of church liturgies and special projects. He has joined the Knights of Columbus. Every day when leaving home, he blesses his mother, receives her blessing, and tells her that he loves her. He will get up early on snowy mornings to clear a widowed neighbor's drive, and has helped insulate walls at the Habitat for Humanity.

Jesse Michael Urban

Senior

St. Joan of Arc Parish, Canton

Perry High School

Jesse often had to get himself to Mass—walking until he got his drivers license. He has given up free time to aid a sick classmate, and liking the one on one contact of nursing home visits would rather go to the rooms than do the group activities. Learning that a lot of people were losing their jobs his enthusiasm with our Parish Food Cupboard helped fill over 200 bags.

Amy Elizabeth Vagedes

Senior

St. Peter Parish, Canton

St. Thomas Aquinas High School

Amy's honest, reflective and heartfelt probing of her faith is refreshing and uplifting. Her own person, she is not swayed by negative peer pressure. Amy helped put on our Freshman Retreat, a new approach for us. Her stamina and drive helped convince kids to pay money, forego Easter Break and help strangers fix their homes in Appalachia.

Luke A. Wadowick Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Geneva

Junior

Geneva High School

A near perfect attendance to Youth Ministry, being a lector and a teacher for the Liturgy of the Word for Children is how Luke inspires me. A choir participant, Banner Bearer during Chrism Mass, Youth Representative on Parish Council, giving witness for a Confirmation Class Retreat are some of the commitments Luke fulfills while maintaining a CPA of 3.9+ in high school.

Jim Wintering

Senior

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Aurora

Walsh Jesuit High School

Jim is a very intense young man, with a deep well for spiritual nourishment. His values are strongly held and witnessed such as when he speaks to younger teens and when he portrays Jesus in the Last Supper drama. An Eagle Scout, Jim has taken on a personal mission of the promotion of Catholic schools. He is a member of SADD, Math Club, NHS, and is also involved in Track and Field at Walsh.

Courtney R. Zemkosky

Senior

St. Paul the Apostle Parish, New Middletown

Springfield Local High School

I am inspired by Courtney's sense of love and affirmation of people. She makes a point to include a special needs person in youth ministry. She plans and presides prayer services in the WITNESS program and is unafraid to give living witness to her faith. Respected by her peers because of the goodness that's in her heart she was voted Miss Springfield at her high school.

