

THE blarney stone

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Another year, another record for art

Record-setting art from Notre Dame's upper division in Scholastic art competition includes another "best of show."



Notre Dame senior Thomas Fazio's "La Rivelazione di Nonno," a pencil illustration, received the "American Vision Award" and was judged one of only five "Best in Show" in the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards regional competition.

Student-artists from Notre Dame earned 50 awards in the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards competition for the Southeastern Michigan region, beating last year's 45 awards, which was a huge increase from the 2016 school record of 27 awards.

According to Sandy LewAllen, Notre Dame's art chair, earning 50 awards tops the number of awards ever won at Notre Dame Prep and is one of the largest groups from any school in the region, including very large public schools such as Stoney Creek and Novi. "I couldn't be any more proud of all of our art students and their efforts," she said.

The awards include 20 Gold Keys, 14 Silver Keys, 16 Honorable Mentions and one Gold Key Portfolio.

LewAllen also noted that one of the award winners, senior Thomas Fazio, earned the competition's American Vision Award, which means his art was chosen as the "Best of Show" from all of the artwork entered in this year's Southeastern Michigan regional competition.

"Each regional program across the country selects the five most outstanding works of art from their Gold Key recipients," said LewAllen, who also was tabbed to receive Scholastic's regional Inspiring

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Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy provides its diverse student body a Catholic and internationally recognized college-preparatory experience of lasting value.



ALUM SAYS PRAYER LED TO THE PRIESTHOOD, PG. 2

Prayer power

Notre Dame alum says a preoccupation with prayer led to the priesthood and to administering his own parish in Michigan.

Two thousand Notre Dame alum Eric Fedewa had just graduated from Oakland University and was well on his way to a career in marketing. He had a good job in the automotive industry and he and his girlfriend of three years were discussing wedding plans.

But at the same time he'd been noticing an ever-so slight "pull" in a decidedly different direction.

"Around the last month of college, I had a 'reconversion' after a Mass when I was prayed with and began living my faith more fully — and also wanting to begin doing what Jesus wanted me to do," Fedewa said. "A few months later, I was asked to pray about the priesthood by a parishioner at St. Lawrence Parish in Utica, which is the parish in which I grew up."

A long story shortened, all of that prayer and contemplation ultimately led Fedewa to the priesthood and to his current position as pastor of St. Basil the Great Parish in Eastpointe, Mich.

"During the time right after college, when I was working at the Volkswagen/Audi headquarters in Auburn Hills, my girlfriend started to take classes to become Catholic," he said. "But she didn't know I was praying about the priesthood until October of that year when she told me she felt like she was dating a priest. I had been reluctant to tell her because I feared it would break her faith, but now it was clearly out in the open!"

Fedewa then spent nearly six months praying about his potential life switch in front of Jesus at the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament after work, and he also met regularly with the vocations director for the Archdiocese.

"By the end of January 2005, I decided to spend a weekend at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit, which clinched it for me. It was time to make the step and apply for acceptance into the priestly formation program there," he said. "That was the moment

I had to end my relationship with my girlfriend. Thankfully, she had a strong sense from the Lord that this was coming. She subsequently was baptized, confirmed, and received her first Eucharist that spring at an Easter Vigil Mass and chose my father to be her godfather!"

In June of that same year Fedewa found out he was accepted into the seminary, but since he already had a degree, his time living and studying in the seminary was estimated to last about six years instead of the more typical eight. He said that during the seminary years,

each seminarian gets reviewed annually to find out whether or not he will keep moving through the program, assuming that he wants to continue and that the team of formation priests feel each seminarian is still called to the priesthood.

"From 2005 to 2007, I was living in the undergraduate residence in the seminary while getting a bachelor's degree in philosophy," he said. "Then I moved to the graduate residence and after four more years of additional full-time classes as well as human, spiritual and pastoral formation, I received a master's degree in Divinity (theology) and a Baccalaureate in Sacred Theology (STB), which is the European equivalent of a master's degree."

The STB degree is granted through the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome, Italy, after one completes a four-year comprehensive written and oral exam, which Fedewa passed with flying colors. He was then ordained a priest on June 11, 2011, in the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament by Archbishop Vigneron.

Soon after his ordination, Fedewa began an assignment as associate pastor at St. Anastasia in Troy, which lasted a couple of years, followed by three years as an associate pastor at St. Hugo of the Hills in Bloomfield Hills. He also served as chaplain at Marian High School during his time at St. Hugo.

"I was then assigned as associate pastor of the Guardian Angels parish in Clawson for a little over a year, and since November of 2017, I am administrator and pastor of St. Basil, having my own place for the first time."

Now well past his college years and his girlfriend, Fedewa said he's very happy.

"I would never want to be anything other than a priest, which is not just a job, but an entire way of life," he said. "Of course, just like it is sometimes for people in a marriage, there can be challenges to being a priest. One of the most difficult challenges for me is deciding what must take priority of my time, as the 'things' I can do are many but the time to do them is short."



Fr. Eric Fedewa, a 2000 graduate of Notre Dame, is pastor of St. Basil the Great parish in Eastpointe, Mich.

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High School Teacher Award. “Thomas will be among the five young artists to represent the region on the national level as American Vision nominees. A national panel will then select one of the nominated works from each region as the American Vision Award Recipient for 2018.”

Notre Dame senior Destiney Sandle received a special “Scholastic Gold Key Portfolio” award in the region.

The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards have an impressive legacy dating back to 1923. Over the years, the Scholastic Art



Notre Dame art chair Sandy LewAllen was joined by her students at a Feb. 6 awards ceremony honoring the Detroit-area Scholastic winners at the Detroit Film Theatre at the Detroit Institute of Arts. An exhibit of all winning student artwork sponsored by Detroit’s prestigious College for Creative Studies also was mounted and available at the time of the event.

& Writing Awards have grown to become the longest-running, most prestigious program for creative teens in the U.S., and the nation’s largest source of scholarships for creative young artists and writers. A noteworthy roster of past winners includes Andy Warhol, Sylvia Plath, Truman Capote, Richard Avedon, Robert Redford, Joyce Carol Oates, Stephen King and John Updike.

An awards ceremony honoring the Detroit-area Scholastic winners was held Feb. 6 at the Detroit Film Theatre at the Detroit Institute of Arts. An exhibit of all winning student artwork sponsored by Detroit’s prestigious College for Creative Studies also was mounted and available at the time of the event.

The process for the art competition begins across the country as young artists and writers in grades 7-12 submit work in 28 categories of art and writing to a

network of regional affiliates who present award ceremonies and exhibits for selected works on a local level. Gold Keys, the highest awards, are then submitted from each region for national adjudication by luminaries in the visual and literary arts, some of whom are past award recipients. National Gold and Silver Medal winning students and their teachers receive national recognition, and are invited to attend the exhibit in New York and award ceremony at Carnegie Hall.

In the last five years alone, students submitted nearly 900,000 original works of art and writing. During that period, more than 60 top art institutes and colleges have partnered with the Awards to make \$40 million in scholarships and financial aid available to regional and national Scholastic Award winners. Nearly 6000 individual entries for middle and high school and more than 300 senior portfolios were entered in 15 categories this year. Many excellent works were submitted, and 1093 individual category works and 90 Portfolios were selected to receive American Vision, Gold Key, Silver Key and Honorable Mention Awards. All Gold Key work is judged at the national level in March.

The 2018 Scholastic Art Award winners from Notre Dame Prep are as follows:

AMERICAN VISION AWARD

Thomas Fazio: “La Rivelazione di Nonno,” Drawing and Illustration, Notre Dame Preparatory School, Teacher: Sandra LewAllen

2018 GOLD KEY ART PORTFOLIO

Destiney Sandle: “Everything in Me,” Notre Dame Preparatory School, Teacher: Sandra LewAllen

2018 REGIONAL AWARDS

Individual Categories, Notre Dame Preparatory School, Teacher: Sandra LewAllen

Kyle Conroy, Gold Key, Printmaking
Riley Cooper, Honorable Mention, Photography

Riley Cooper, Honorable Mention, Drawing

Kevin Cragg, Gold Key, Drawing
Kevin Cragg, Honorable, Mention Drawing

Amelia Cumming, Gold Key, Drawing
Amelia Cumming, Gold Key, Drawing
Maddie Detty, Silver Key, Drawing

Thomas Fazio, Gold Key, Printmaking
Thomas Fazio, Gold Key, Drawing
Thomas Fazio, Silver Key, Printmaking
Thomas Fazio, Silver Key, Ceramics & Glass
Thomas Fazio, Honorable Mention, Painting
Isabella Ignagni, Gold Key, Printmaking
Isabella Ignagni, Gold Key, Painting
Isabella Ignagni, Silver Key, Sculpture
Isabella Ignagni, Honorable Mention, Printmaking
Juliet Jacoby, Silver Key, Drawing
Juliet Jacoby, Honorable Mention, Photography
Gretel Keller, Silver Key, Painting
Gretel Keller, Silver Key, Mixed Media
Matthew LaMothe, Gold Key, Drawing
Matthew LaMothe, Gold Key, Drawing
Matthew LaMothe, Honorable Mention, Ceramics & Glass
Matthew LaMothe, Honorable Mention, Photography
Deven Lawry, Honorable Mention, Painting
Kathryn Lee, Gold Key, Drawing
Kathryn Lee, Gold Key, Drawing
Natalie Lyjynen, Gold Key, Photography
Natalie Lyjynen, Gold Key, Drawing
Natalie Lyjynen, Silver Key, Drawing
Brianna Manzor, Gold Key, Photography
Brianna Manzor, Silver Key, Drawing
Brianna Manzor, Honorable Mention, Painting
Brianna Manzor, Honorable Mention, Painting
Madelyn McCullen, Silver Key, Printmaking
Madelyn McCullen, Silver Key, Printmaking
Maria Mora, Gold Key, Photography
Mariana Ortiz Luna, Gold Key, Drawing
Mariana Ortiz Luna, Silver Key, Drawing
Abigail Rankin, Silver Key, Printmaking
Abigail Rankin, Honorable Mention, Painting
Destiney Sandle, Gold Key, Mixed Media
Destiney Sandle, Gold Key, Mixed Media
Destiney Sandle, Silver Key, Sculpture
Sophia Shick, Honorable Mention, Printmaking
Sophia Shick, Honorable Mention, Painting
Megan Sollmer, Honorable Mention, Drawing
Cydney Ukwuoma, Silver Key, Printmaking
Shannon Wood, Gold Key, Printmaking

'Time to pay it forward'

NDPMA family says their children have benefited from attending Notre Dame. Now they want to ensure that future students enjoy those same benefits and more.



The Seitzingers are generous contributors to the March on to Victory campaign for a new science, art, and technology wing. From left, Brad, Jill, Eli and Claire.

On March 9 of last year, Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy launched the public phase of its campaign to raise a total of \$7.5 million for a new science, art and technology wing to be built on its campus in Pontiac.

Dubbed the "March on to Victory" campaign, the public phase of the fundraising effort was introduced at a special celebration to a crowd of more than 700 who heard from school and campaign officials and watched a special video presentation.

Notre Dame head of school Andy Guest said that since the launch of the campaign, a total of \$5.6 million has been pledged to date. "But we are working hard to close the gap between where we are today and the \$7.5 million goal. We want

to secure as much as we can if not all of it before we open the facility ahead of the 2018 school year."

Daron Gifford is the NDPMA board chairman and co-chair of the MOTV campaign.

"The big goal of this campaign, which is the most ambitious in the school's history, is to help our great school to maintain its educational leadership not only for our current generation of students, but also for many generations of students to come," said Gifford, who also is an alumni parent.

Echoing Gifford are Jill and Brad Seitzinger — parents of Claire, an NDP senior, and Eli, a freshman — who are significant contributors to the campaign.

"Our children have benefited from the school's current facilities, which have been provided to us in part from donations that came

before us," said Jill Seitzinger, who also is a school trustee. "Now it's our time to pay it forward."

The new 26,000 square foot facility, which is well underway and on schedule, includes a one-story science, technology and arts building that has already been connected to both the current middle-school and upper-school wings. When it opens before school begins in August, it will feature science laboratory facilities, collaborative learning classrooms, a robotics lab, a specially designed greenhouse, and a fine arts studio.

For the Seitzingers, even though Claire will have graduated before the new facility opens and Eli will be starting his second year in the upper school, they are thinking about the many students who will benefit from it well into the future.

"We hope the new science, arts and technology wing will provide teachers with the space they need to teach all of the programs that future students want and deserve," Jill Seitzinger said. "Also, the facility's robotics lab and greenhouse are new and exciting ways to learn and are steps ahead of most schools in this area. We believe this will help keep NDPMA a top-ranked school."

The 1,200 square-foot robotics lab and 850 square-foot adjoining classroom are key components to the new wing. Notre Dame's robotics program has grown to encompass world-ranked programs at its lower, middle and upper divisions and the robotics center will complement the space currently provided through the school's



Jill Seitzinger says that her children have benefited from the school's current facilities, which have been provided to them in part "from donations that came before us. Now it's our time to pay it forward."

ongoing relationship with FIAT Chrysler, a sponsor of our robotics program since its inception.

"The new greenhouse has been designed to be a powerful environmental education tool for Notre Dame students of all ages," said Fr. Leon Olszamowski, s.m., Pontiac Notre Dame's founder and

“NDPMA has given our family an environment to meet many great kids and parents with similar values as well as a top-notch education to Claire and Eli.”

Jill Seitzinger

its current corporate president. “The greenhouse also will provide students with the unique opportunity to explore hydroponic growing systems, which is a new way to develop efficient food sources. Our students who study natural and social science, math, language arts, visual arts and more will benefit from the greenhouse and its garden-like setting.”

The many other unique opportunities that Notre Dame has already provided to

students and their families are not lost on Jill Seitzinger, who has been consistent in her assessment of the school.

Notre Dame “is a phenomenal school and everyone here truly lives the mission,” she said when the campaign for the new wing was first announced.

“Both our children are thriving not only academically, but as good Christian people and upright citizens. We are very happy with Notre Dame.”

Today, Seitzinger is equally effusive.

“NDPMA has given our family an environment to meet many great kids and parents with similar values as well as a top-notch education to Claire and Eli,” she said. She also said that her kids are being brought up to be both responsible and generous with their own money.

“We have taught our children that



Construction of the new science, art and technology wing is on schedule. This is an exterior view of the new art room.

when budgeting money, five categories are important: save, spend, invest, tithe and donate,” said Seitzinger, who noted that she and her husband strive to be role models in those areas as well as in the volunteer work they do. “We participate and serve because nonprofits like NDPMA typically need lots of help and we believe all parents should play a role.”

To learn more about the campaign, its impact on students and how to participate, please visit ndpma.org/marchon-tovictory. 🇺🇸



Notre Dame senior wins special scholarship

Notre Dame senior Celia Gaynor was named one of only six senior student-athletes in Michigan to earn the 2018 Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (MIAAA) scholarship.

“Congratulations to Celia on winning this honor and scholarship,” said NDPMA athletic director and assistant principal Betty Wroubel. “This is quite an honor! The Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators (MIAAA) scholarship is a highly competitive scholarship reserved for student athletes who best exemplify the values found and developed in educational athletics.”

The \$1,000 grant is part of an annual MIAAA program that helps defray the college expenses of exceptional graduating seniors as they make their way to colleges and universities in the fall.

A two-sport (basketball and soccer) athletic and academic standout for the Fighting Irish, Gaynor also was named 2017 First-Team All-State in soccer and was instrumental in Notre Dame’s 2016 state title in soccer. In January, she was named a finalist for the Michigan High School Athletic Association’s Scholar-Athlete Award in Class B.



Choir director releases special song on Valentine’s Day

In celebration of World Marriage Day, which was celebrated Sunday, Feb. 11, and Valentine’s Day, Notre Dame director of choirs David Fazzini has released an original song (and video) called “Have Faith in Us,” an homage to the joy and beauty of marriage. The video features 14 couples, seven of whom are associated with Notre Dame as either alumni parents or current teaching staff — or both.

“I thought the song had something powerful to say about the institution of marriage and I wanted a way to release the song on YouTube, so I started brainstorming for video ideas,” said Fazzini,

who also appears in the video. “We invited couples to a professional photo shoot and then juxtaposed the studio shots with photos from each couple’s wedding album. I think the result is something special.”

“Have Faith in Us” is part of an EP of three songs that also were released Feb. 14. All three songs can be heard on Fazzini’s YouTube channel, available at youtube.com/channel/UCv41-mYijL42wWHHvQuFw2Q.

According to Fazzini the other two songs are completely different than “Have Faith in Us.”

“Both are fictional story songs, written — at least lyrically — in a Steely Dan sort of fashion,” he said. “I think listeners will find the music to have a jazz, pop and R&B sort of sound.”

Fazzini directs the upper-school choirs at Notre Dame and is a regular soloist at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Lake Orion.

For Fazzini, the EP release has been a long time in the making.

“This collection of songs were originally written some eight to 10 years ago,” he said. “And the video was started back in 2012. So I’m very excited to finally get some of this material released.”

He also said there will be more releases.

“I have a kind of a vault of ideas that need to be realized, and once those ideas are completed, I hope to get started on new material,” he said. “For me, this release is a huge first step in that direction.”



The official song video for choir director David Fazzini’s “Have Faith in Us” includes a montage of school alum parents and staff members. It is available at ndpma.org/choir-director-releases-special-song-on-valentines-day.

Dealing with distracted driving

Distracted driving continues to be a major cause of motor-vehicle collisions, especially among young people, according to the PEERS Foundation, a nonprofit that provides teenagers with the necessary knowledge for a healthy and successful life through real-life situations

life through the Sacraments.”

Fedewa also recalls many positives from his Notre Dame Prep experience.

“One of my favorite memories from NDP was when, at the beginning of Fr. Joe’s [Hindelang] church history class, he would inevitably have to say to Bill Holland and me: ‘Eric and Bill...are you ready to begin class?!’ That’s because Bill and I would no doubt be absorbed in blabbing together about whatever topic mattered to us that day.”

Fedewa said that to jump from that babbling in high school to now being a priest — where among other things he’s listened to group confessions with the likes of Fr. Joe, Fr. Leon and other priests — is quite amazing to him.

“Back in high school, I think I probably never once thought that one day I would serve as a priest alongside the ones I had at NDP!”

PRAYER, from page 2

But Fedewa said that just as it was when he was seriously contemplating the priesthood, prayer still is most central in his life, for without it, he said, he could become distant from the Lord, and then what would he have to offer his parishioners?

All challenges aside, however, Fedewa said there are many, many more positives about his vocation than negatives.

“One of my favorite experiences since becoming a priest is when a family invites me over for dinner,” he said. “That is when one can really see that the Church is most fully expressed by both marriage and celibacy for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. While they seem so different, in actuality they need each other, because as the priest sees the sacrifices a mother and father make for their children, they in turn see the sacrifices the priest makes for the sake of his spiritual children, to whom he brings spiritual



Notre Dame senior Alaina Black test-drives an augmented-reality driving simulator that was on the Notre Dame campus February 13.

and challenges.

In fact, more than 3,390 people nationwide were killed in 2016 in automobile accidents that involved a distracted driver, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

On Feb. 13, Notre Dame's SADD club, which works to provide NDP students with the best prevention and intervention tools possible to deal with issues resulting from destructive decisions, hosted a distracted-driving simulation event

in conjunction with PEERS that brought an actual driving simulator to the school's gymnasium, according to Gretchen Glick, an NDP English teacher who moderates the school's SAAD club.

"In partnership with General Motors, the Augmented Reality Distracted Driving Education Simulator (ARDDDES) we brought to campus gave students a safe, virtual reality environment that exposes them to the dangers of distractions such as phone calls, texting, and social media use while driving to educate teens about vehicle and roadway safety," Glick said.

Terry Rhadigan, executive director, GM corporate giving, said that as a future is envisioned with zero crashes, there must first be an increase in safe practices in and around vehicles.

"The work General Motors is doing with the PEERS Foundation to educate young drivers about the dangers of driving distractions is a great example of something that will help get us to that future," Rhadigan said.

Four seniors named National Merit Scholarship finalists

Four members of Notre Dame Prep's Class of 2018 have been named finalists in the 2018 National Merit Scholarship Program. NDP seniors Olivia Heming, Sean Higgins, Gretel Keller and Malini Mukherji will now compete for more than 7,500 scholarships worth more than \$32 million that will be awarded in the



NDP seniors, from left, Olivia Heming, Sean Higgins, Gretel Keller and Malini Mukherji were named National Merit Scholarship finalists by the National Merit Scholarship Corp.

spring.

Three types of scholarships will be offered by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, including about 2,500 awarded by state allotments, 1,000 corporate-sponsored scholarships and more than 4,000 sponsored by 200 colleges and universities.

In March, NMSC will begin mailing scholarship offers to winners of the 2018 scholarships. Notre Dame's four seniors were named NMS semifinalists in September of last year.

The National Merit® Scholarship Program is an academic competition for recognition and scholarships that began in 1955.

High school students enter the National Merit Program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®) — which serves as an initial screen of approximately 1.6 million entrants each year — and by meeting published program entry and participation requirements.

Preparing for summer camp: Notre Dame gets visit from noted university aerospace professor



Dr. Daniel P. Schrage visited Notre Dame's Advanced CAD class on Feb. 6 to discuss careers in aerospace engineering and design.

Notre Dame will be offering a unique summer academic camp this year that revolves around computer-aided design and technology. As part of the preparation for the camp, NDPMA upper-school computer science teacher Katrina Palushaj has been working with a number of CAD software companies as well as Georgia Institute of Technology's professor of aerospace engineering and rotorcraft design professor Dr. Daniel P. Schrage, who also directs the Center of Excellence in Rotorcraft

Technology (CERT).

Palushaj said the new Notre Dame camp will be called the CDBO STEM summer camp, subtitled "Co-Create, Design, Build and Operate."

With its hands-on STEM curriculum the camp will teach key principles in a simplified way. The CDBO approach is based on a team project, which requires students to conceive, model, build and test components of moderately complex electromechanical system, for example, a LEGO Mindstorms robot, LEGO wind-turbine or remote-controlled helicopter. The program introduces students to several concepts and skills essential in the making of an engineer today, including systems thinking; design for manufacturing; management and planning; computer-aided design; computer-aided manufacturing using 3D printers; computer programming; internet-based mass collaboration and crowd sourcing; and leadership, teamwork and communication skills.

Palushaj said the professor's visit was not connected through Dassault, even though she uses their product CATIA V6 almost exclusively. Schrage wanted to visit NDP because he'd heard so much about the school and the computer lab from which Palushaj will be conducting her CDBO camp.

"Schrage wanted to speak to our NDP Advanced CAD students and talk about aerospace engineering and how important the field of engineering is as well as the growing demand for aerospace engineers," Palushaj said. "With the work of people like Dr. Schrage, we are hoping to make this new camp a success and to open even bigger opportunities for our students."



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State champs times five!

On March 3 in Grand Rapids, Mich., Notre Dame Prep's competitive cheer team earned its fifth consecutive MHSAA state championship by finishing atop second-place finisher Richmond and third-place Monroe Jefferson.