

# School News

## Senior receives full ride scholarship to UConn

FAIRFIELD—Notre Dame Prep of Sacred Heart University is proud to announce that senior Christabelle Laurenard has been awarded the prestigious Nutmeg Scholarship from the University of Connecticut.

Candidates for the Nutmeg Scholarship are selected based on academic achievement, leadership, and service. This full-ride scholarship is only awarded to 20 students in the state of Connecticut each year.

“Christabelle is a prime

example of a student who has developed in character, faith, and intellect during her career at Notre Dame Prep,” principal Christopher Cipriano said. “I am extremely proud of Christabelle’s achievements and I have no doubt that she will find continued success in her collegiate career and beyond.”

Laurenard is a member of the Distinguished Scholars Program, which means she committed to taking a rigorous High Honors course load all four



years. Outside of the classroom, Laurenard is the captain of both the indoor and outdoor track teams, a participant in Campus Ministry, president of the Culture Club, and a member of the Link Crew, a student organization that runs freshman orientation. As a member of Campus Ministry, Laurenard has completed several hundred community service hours. Additionally, she was nominated for the Barnum Festival Royal Court.

Laurenard is the second Notre Dame Prep senior to receive the Nutmeg Scholarship in the last two school years.

### CYO basketball

## St. Thomas, St. James compete

MIDDLETOWN, Conn.—Each spring, Catholic middle school basketball teams from each of the 12 Catholic dioceses across New England compete in the prestigious New England CYO Basketball Tournament. Boys’ and girls’ teams compete in two divisions: junior varsity (for fifth and sixth grades) and varsity (for seventh and eighth grades).

In each diocese, school teams compete in their own tournaments to determine which schools advance



to the New England Championships to represent their diocese.

For the third consecutive year, St Thomas Aquinas School in Fairfield has sent three of the four teams from the Diocese of Bridgeport to the New England CYO Basketball Tournament. And for the first time in recent history, two of those teams came home with a championship trophy.

The St. Thomas boys’ varsity team beat St. Leo School from the Diocese of Worcester, Mass., in the boys’ varsity final, while the St. Thomas sixth grade girls’ team beat St. John School from the Diocese of Fall River, Mass., to capture the girls’ junior varsity trophy.

The girls’ varsity eighth grade Blue Team from St. Thomas Aquinas also represented the Diocese of Bridgeport at the New England Tournament.

In further tribute to the excellence of Catholic school basketball within the Diocese of Bridgeport, the boys’ junior varsity team from St. James School in Stratford also won a bid to the New England CYO Tournament and reached the finals in their division, ultimately falling to St. Rita School from the Archdiocese of Hartford, Conn.

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ered when we lost the appeal,” she said. “He stopped begging God to let him go home every day. And he said, ‘Into your hands I commend my spirit. Just give me peace.’ And when he let go of all of his expectations of what he thought his life would look like ... and he just surrendered to it, he said it was like this grace bubble descended from heaven, and it grabbed him in this warm embrace.”

Ultimately, Cleveland’s father kept receiving graces: having his case heard and overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court, receiving special permission from the archbishop to baptize Cleveland’s daughter, and—on his deathbed—being reinstated as a deacon and holding another newborn grandchild in his arms.



“He was buried in his vestments, which he had not worn in 11 years other than to baptize my daughter,” Cleveland said. “Dozens of priests came to celebrate his funeral, and it was standing room only. Why? Because of the witness he gave to God’s faithfulness, even when it seems that all is lost.”

The conference also featured a talk titled “How Lovely Are the Feet of

Those Who Carry the Good News” by WINE co-founder Kelly Wahlquist, who reflected on the concept of the Feminine Genius, which encapsulates receptivity, generosity and sensitivity. And by tapping into those gifts, she said, women are able to share the Good News with others in joy.

The women at the conference also had an opportunity to listen to a “Relax and Recharge” session with Catholic musician Marie Miller, who based her commentary on the “Little Way” of St. Therese of Lisieux. The Little Way, Miller said, is the secret to divine love, as many of us are living “littler” lives than we expected, but the Little Way guides us through it.

The attendees were guided through the day with the humor and joy of Alyssa Bormes, an educator, retreat leader and the event’s emcee. And as the day closed in prayer—and door prizes—the women left with a greater sense of peace after being refreshed in the Living Waters of Christ.



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