



**Region 11 Athletic Ministry**  
Archdiocese of Philadelphia

**Board of Athletic Directors**  
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## **The 2020 Region 11 Meredith Merlini Catholic Youth Scholarship Program**

### **2020 Scholarship Award Announcement**

June 15, 2020

The Region 11 CYO Board of Athletic Directors is pleased to announce the award recipients of our 2020 Scholarship Program for graduating 8th graders from member parishes who are continuing their education this Fall at an Archdiocesan or private Catholic high school.

In the program this year we received a record 85 essays for scholarship consideration on the topic: "Think of a professional athlete – past or present. What qualities and behaviors do you believe this individual exhibits or exhibited that makes her or him the ideal CYO role model."

An independent panel of 11 former but long-time CYO coaches and administrators who no longer coached CYO nor had children attending elementary school reviewed the essays anonymously to ensure an unbiased evaluation. The committee initially evaluated all 85 essays and chose 9 essays as finalists. Those 9 finalist essays were then re-evaluated and the judges ultimately chose five students to each be awarded a \$1,000 Region 11 CYO Scholarship.

The 2020 Region 11 CYO Scholarship Award recipients are:

Katharine Brown – St. Alphonsus parish, attending Mount St. Joseph Academy

Katherine wrote her essay about basketball player Ruth Riley

Niamh Cole – Our Lady of Good Counsel parish, attending Villa Joseph Marie High School

Niamh wrote her essay about gymnast Simone Biles

Patrick Gozdan – St. Joseph / St. Robert, attending Archbishop Wood High School

Patrick wrote his essay about football player Patrick Mahomes

Benjamin Newman – Our Lady of Good Counsel parish, attending La Salle College High School

Benjamin wrote his essay about golfer Jordan Spieth

Mary Kate Rath – St. Anthony of Padua parish, attending Mount St. Joseph Academy

Mary Kate wrote her essay about football player Zach Ertz

Congratulations to our 2020 Region 11 CYO Meredith Merlini Scholarship Award Recipients.