



Region 11 Athletic Ministry
Archdiocese of Philadelphia

Board of Athletic Directors
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The 2023 Region 11 Meredith Merlini Catholic Youth Scholarship Program

The Region 11 CYO Board of Athletic Directors is pleased to continue our Scholarship Program for graduating 8th graders from its member parishes who are continuing their education next Fall at an Archdiocesan or private Catholic high school. The Scholarship is named in honor of Meredith Merlini, the long-time Region 11 coach, athletic director, commissioner, and Chair of our CYO Board.

In the program last year we received 50 essays for scholarship consideration. We asked the students to write about two or three examples of good sportsmanship by high school, college, and/or professional coaches. The essays were evaluated anonymously by a panel of ten long-serving former CYO administrators and five scholarships for \$1,000 each were awarded to:

Jacob Bargerhuff – St. Joseph Parish and St. Joseph / St. Robert School,
now attending Archbishop Wood High School

Anne Cobb – St. Genevieve Parish and School,
now attending Gwynedd Mercy Academy High School

Kaitlyn Cunningham – St. Alphonsus Parish and Our Lady of Mercy Regional Catholic School,
now attending Mount Saint Joseph Academy

Gordon Greenlaw – St. Robert Bellarmine Parish and St. Joseph / St. Robert School,
now attending La Salle College High School

Benjamin Vecchiarelli – St. Alphonsus Parish,
now attending La Salle College High School

This year we will again award five scholarships of \$1,000 each. The eligibility criteria have not changed. The graduating 8th grader must have been a CYO participant during grade school and must be continuing his or her education at an Archdiocesan or private Catholic high school.

Interested 8th graders are invited to submit a **ONE-PAGE** essay in **word .doc or .pdf format only** – no “Google Docs” – on the topic below by Monday, May 15, 2023 to be considered for one of the \$1,000 scholarships. Use of ChatGPT or similar essay-writing tool is prohibited. **Because the essays will be evaluated anonymously, students should not identify their names or specific parishes in the essay itself. Include the following information ONLY in the email:**

NAME - PARISH - SCHOOL - CYO ACTIVITIES - HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDING FALL OF 2023:

Please return to: 2023scholarship@region11cyo.org by **Monday, May 15, 2023**

(You will receive an email confirming receipt – if you don't receive one, contact the Coordinator.)

2023 CYO Scholarship Question:

There are many inspirational heroes of the Catholic faith. St. John Bosco is known as the patron of youth, while St. Sebastian is the patron of athletes. This year we want you to think about saints and venerated Catholic icons: your topic is to write about two individuals -- other than St. John Bosco and St. Sebastian -- and explain why you think either of them would make an excellent patron saint of Region 11 CYO.