



Region 11 Athletic Ministry
Archdiocese of Philadelphia

Board of Athletic Directors
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The 2024 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 55 essays for scholarship consideration. We asked the students to write about two Catholic icons who would make good patron saints for Region 11 CYO. An independent panel of eight former but long-time CYO coaches and administrators who no longer coached CYO nor had children attending elementary school was formed to review the essays anonymously to ensure an unbiased evaluation. The committee initially evaluated all 55 essays and chose 13 essays as finalists. Those 13 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 2023 Region 11 CYO Scholarship Award recipients were:

Makayla Finnegan – Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish

Makayla wrote about SS Joan of Arc and Barnabas, and now attends Archbishop Wood

Meredith Hawkinson – St Albert the Great Parish and School

Meredith wrote about SS Francis de Sales and Gemma Galgani, and now attends Nazareth Academy

Olivia Lorenz – Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish and School

Olivia wrote about SS Monica and Phillip Neri, and now attends Archbishop Wood

Sydney Podder – St Luke the Evangelist Parish and School

Sydney wrote about SS Vincent de Paul and Phillip Neri, and now attends Mount Saint Joseph

Brendan Sock – Nativity of Our Lord Parish and School

Brendan wrote about SS Pope John Paul II and Angela Merici, and now attends La Salle

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 13, 2024 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 2024:

Please return to: 2024scholarship@region11cyo.org by **Monday, May 13, 2024**

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

2024 CYO Scholarship Question:

This being an Olympic year, your topic is to write about two or three Olympians -- past or present -- who you think would make positive and worthy role models for the youth of Region 11 CYO.