

Christopher Columbus ranked among top Catholic high schools

By Lee Stephens

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The Catholic High School Honor Roll recently announced the selection of the best 50 secondary schools in America and among them is Miami's Christopher Columbus High School.

Columbus High, 3000 SW 87 Ave., was named to the honor roll and ranked No. 5 in Catholic identity. The schools are recognized based on their demonstrated commitment to academic excellence, Catholic identity, and civic education. "It's a great honor for us to receive this recognition" said Br. Patrick McNamara, FMS, Columbus principal. "We owe this honor to our talented faculty, administration, and our dedicated parents and students."

Br. Kevin Handibode, FMS, president of Columbus, said, "I am especially pleased to see that Columbus ranked so high in Catholic identity. The mission of the school has always been to make Jesus Christ known and loved through the Catholic education of youth."



Pictured surrounded by students at Christopher Columbus High School are (l-r) Pat Call, academic dean; Br. Patrick McNamara, FMS, principal; Br. Kevin Handibode, FMS., president, and Juan Gomez, dean of students.

In all, schools in 25 states made the honor roll. To see a complete list of the schools, go to the Catholic High School Honor Roll website at www.chshonor.org.

"The honor roll will serve as a benchmark for all who are seeking an education informed by faith," said Gerard Bradley, Catholic High School Honor Roll Advisory Board member and professor of law at the University of Notre Dame. "It draws attention to schools that are contributing in extraordinary ways to the moral and intellectual formation of young people."

The primary goal of the honor roll is to encourage schools to educate their students as effectively as possible, in a way that integrates Catholic faith and prepares students for active engagement with the world.

Christopher Columbus High School has been known for educational excellence in South Florida for more than 45 years. It is a private, Roman Catholic, all-male college preparatory high school, conducted by the Marist Brothers. More than 99 percent of Columbus graduates go on to college, with many taking on prominent positions in our society.

Some of Columbus' notable alumni include Florida Supreme Court Justice Raoul Garcia Cantero III; Ray Rodriguez, CEO of Univision Network; Dr. Pedro Greer, and Mike Shula, University of Alabama head football coach. Columbus is fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and is a member of the National Catholic Educational Association.

The Catholic High School Honor Roll is an independent project of the Acton Institute for the Study of Religion and Liberty, an international research and educational organization based in Grand Rapids, MI. The honor roll was produced in consultation with a national advisory board comprised of Catholic college presidents and noted Catholic scholars.

For more information on Christopher Columbus High School, call Cristina Cruz at 305-223-5650 or log on to <www.columbushs.com>.