

Bishop Kelly High School among Top 50 Catholic High Schools Named for 2005

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (Sept. 8, 2005) –The [Catholic High School Honor Roll](#) today announced the second annual selection of its best 50 secondary schools in America. Building on the success of last year’s program, this year’s Honor Roll will continue to serve as an invaluable resource for students, parents and benefactors. By recognizing the nation’s top 50 high schools, the Honor Roll promotes quality Catholic secondary education.

Among this year’s top 50 is Boise’s Bishop Kelly High School (www.bk.org). The co-ed, 653-student school is run by the Diocese of Boise. In response to this great honor, Bishop Michael Driscoll issued the following statement:

“I am delighted that Bishop Kelly High School has been named as one of the 50 best Catholic high schools in the United States. This honor is especially gratifying since it comes at the end of the school’s 40th year, a year in which Bishop Kelly has embarked on a long term strategy to become even better. I congratulate the new leadership team of President Dr. David Lachiondo and Principal Robert Wehde, the excellent faculty and support staff, the students and their families. Together you have made Bishop Kelly an asset that the entire community appreciates.”

Also commenting on this honor, Superintendent of schools Daniel Makley added his recognition:

“I am happy to add my congratulations to Bishop Kelly High School for receiving this honor. Having seen the school frequently in action, I can verify that this recognition is well deserved. Administration, teachers, staff, students, families and friends, you have done a fantastic job, and I know you have plans to do even better in the future.”

More than half of the Honor Roll schools are repeat performers from last year. Honorees include co-ed, male and female schools, and ranged from the 24-student Holy Rosary Academy in Anchorage, Alaska, to St. Thomas Aquinas High School in Fort Lauderdale, Florida with more than 2,100 students. The state of Florida led the way with seven schools selected, followed by Texas and New York (6 each) and Pennsylvania and Illinois (5 each). In all, schools from 21 states made the Honor Roll. In addition to the Top 50 list, the Honor Roll also published the top 20 finalists in three categories that are important to overall excellence: academics, Catholic identity, and civic education. To see a complete list of the schools, please go to the Catholic High School Honor Roll Web site at www.chshonor.org.

Advisory board member Father Bernard O’Connor, president of De Sales University, said the Honor Roll provides a valuable service. “It is important to highlight the accomplishments of schools that are contributing in exemplary ways to the moral and intellectual formation their students,” he said.

The primary goal of the Honor Roll is to encourage schools to educate students as effectively as possible, in a way that integrates Catholic faith and prepares students for active engagement with the world. By supporting this constructive competition, the Honor Roll provides insight into the character of Catholic secondary education and calls everyone to improve the academic and spiritual formation given to America's youth. In promoting rigorous educations, the Honor Roll desires to better prepare students for fruitful vocations in politics, business, and the Church.

Strength in each of the three areas—academics, Catholic identity, and civic education—was key to placing on the Honor Roll, according to the project's director, Dr. Kevin Schmiesing. "It is encouraging to see so many outstanding examples of Catholic education," he said. "Though the schools represent a diverse array of types—including Christian Brothers, Franciscan, Legionary, diocesan and independent—what they have in common is a commitment to excellence in the areas that we examine."

The Catholic High School Honor Roll is an independent project of the Acton Institute for the Study of Religion & Liberty, an international research and educational organization based in Grand Rapids, Mich. The Honor Roll was produced in consultation with a national advisory board comprised of Catholic college presidents and noted Catholic scholars. For more on Acton, please go to www.acton.org

About the Acton Institute

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The Acton Institute is a nonprofit, ecumenical think tank located in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The Institute works internationally to "promote a free and virtuous society characterized by individual liberty and sustained by religious principles." For more on the Acton Institute, please visit www.acton.org.