

## Coraopolis-Moon Record

### OLSH Honor roll project ranks among top 50 nationally

#### Joanne Braun

Usually, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School in Moon Township recognizes its top students by listing their names on the school's honor roll, but for the first time this year, OLSH itself has received a similar honor.

Acton Institute for the Study of Religion and Liberty has recognized the school among the top 50 secondary Catholic schools in America in the Catholic High School Honor Roll project.

Kevin Schmiesing, project director, says OLSH was especially strong in the Catholic identity portion of the honor roll, actually placing in the top 20. It was chosen for the honor out of 250 schools that applied from all over the country.

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.

In the Catholic identity category, schools received points for high percentages of Catholic students and faculty and for having

ministers on staff. Points are also awarded for use of textbooks that appear on the USCCB's list of texts in conformity with the Catechism.

Sister Francine, OLSH principal, says although this is the second year for the project, this year was the first time the school applied.

Last year OLSH added a campus minister, Mary Lou Sokol, to help the school reach out and to do more service with the poor. Other programs also were added, although Sister Francine says OLSH did not realize at the time that it would be gaining status for the Catholic Honor Roll.

One new program focuses on the Social Justice junior students who now are going to the Red Door in Pittsburgh, three at a time, to help feed lunch to the poor.

New in the music liturgy is the Cantori, a group of students who prepare the liturgy, lead and prepare the music.

The students help to bring more, livelier music to the service to keep the kids participating more.

There also is a new campus ministry class in

which students choose and plan religious activities for the other students. The class is run by Sokol.

OLSH also offers the opportunity for students to participate in the adoration of the blessed sacrament, which some students do during study hall. They are called eucharistic adores.

OLSH is a co-ed school located on 75 acres with 326 students.

It is run by the Felician Sisters and was founded in 1932. At first it was an all girls' school for ninth and 10th grade students. Some of the students studied to enter the sisterhood. Eventually, provision were made for boarders as well.

By the late 1960s, the boarding facilities were phased out. In the 1970s, the first boys were admitted.

Today students from 14 different school districts come together to form the OLSH community.

To learn more about OLSH, call the school at 412-264-5140.

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