



GORMAN NAMED 1 OF TOP 50 CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

By: [BETTY WATERS](#), Staff Writer [October 29, 2004](#)

Bishop T.K. Gorman High School in Tyler is one of the top 50 Catholic high schools in the nation named to the first national "Catholic High School Honor."

The honor roll recognizes schools for high performance in three categories: academic excellence, Catholic identity and civic education.

The honor roll is a new, independent project of the Acton Institute for the Study of Religion and Liberty, an international research and educational organization based in Grand Rapids, Mich.

It was produced in consultation with a national advisory board of Catholic college presidents and Catholic scholars. Universities represented on the advisory board include the University of Notre Dame, University of Tulsa, Catholic University of America, Desales University and Creighton University.

Selections for the 2004 honor roll were based on responses to three extensive surveys in April and May of Catholic schools and school data. About 1,300 Catholic high schools were invited to apply and approximately 250 responded.

According to the Acton Institute, the honor roll recognizes schools that embrace a vibrant Catholic identity and instill an appreciation of the social, political and economic dimensions of the world.

Schools from 25 states were named to the honor roll. Texas had the second highest number of Catholic schools named to the honor roll behind Illinois, which had seven.

Besides Gorman, other Texas schools placed on the Honor Roll were Monsignor Kelly High in Beaumont, St. Therese Academy in Irving, Strake Jesuit College Preparatory in Houston and Antonian College Preparatory High in San Antonio.

Gorman Principal Jim Franz said, "We are very proud as a school of the recognition. Most of all we're very thankful for a lot of parent sacrifices, student hard work and faculty effort to bring students to success."

Franz added that being named to the honor "is an acknowledgement for us of what we sense that goes on at Gorman all the time. It's a very strong community and we're very thankful for a lot of good things that happen at the school."

The high school opened in 1958 on a 29-acre site on Loop 323, and a middle school building was added in 1982. Gorman has 35 teachers and about 380 students in grades six through 12.

Gorman was named a U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon School of Excellence in 1999. Gorman was academic state champion in Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools competitions in 1999, 2000 and 2002. In addition, Gorman was overall TAPPS 3A state champions in 2002 for arts, academics and athletics.

Also, Gorman teams have won several years in choir, girls' track, boys cross-country, girls' cross-country, soccer and boys' track contests.

Gorman students far exceeded state and national averages on the SAT college entrance examinations for 2004. Gorman averaged 622 on the verbal section of the exam, compared with the state average of 493 and the national average of 507.

On the math section, Gorman averaged 596 points, compared with the state average of 500 and the national average of 519.

Forty Gorman graduates last May received over \$2.5 million in scholarships and now attend universities such as Dartmouth, Loyola, Tulane, Vanderbilt, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the U.S. Air Force Academy.

Gorman is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and recognized by the Texas Education Agency through the Texas Catholic Conference.

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