



## **Listing: Prep among nation's top 50 Catholic high schools**

By Anne-Marie Walsh

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Cathedral Preparatory School in Erie has been named among the nation's top 50 Catholic high schools in a new listing from the Catholic High School Honor Roll (CHSHR) based in Grand Rapids, Mich.

Schools were judged on their demonstrated commitment to academic excellence, Catholic identity, and civic education. Prep also placed in the top 20 in Catholic identity category.

"We are especially pleased about the recognition in the Catholic identity category," said Father Scott Jabo, headmaster. "We've never compromised who and what we are and our Catholic identity is paramount to everything we do here. This honor is an affirmation that we're on the right track."

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, according to a statement released by CHSHR.

Father Jabo said Cathedral Prep has been working to set itself apart in many areas, ranging from academics and athletics to its new technology program.

Recruitment season is in full swing for Cathedral Prep and other Catholic high schools in the Erie Diocese. Open houses are scheduled Nov. 7 at Villa Maria Academy, Nov. 14 at Prep and Nov. 21 at Mercyhurst Preparatory School; all of Erie. All of the events are scheduled from 12:30-3 p.m.

Kennedy Christian Catholic High School, Hermitage, is planning a fall open house Nov. from 1 to 3 p.m.; DuBois Area Catholic High School will hold its annual information night Nov. 14 at 6 p.m.; Elk County Catholic High School, St. Marys, will host area eighth-graders for day-long visits during the second week of November, and Venango Catholic High School, Oil City, has already had its open house.

Cathedral Prep also garnered national attention earlier this fall when New York Times reporter Thomas Fitzgerald featured the school's technology efforts in his Sept. 9 article, "The tablet PC takes its place in the classroom."

"Several national educator magazines have highlighted our technology as well," said Father Jabo, "but we're still first and foremost a Catholic school. This is a great tribute to the efforts of our students, faculty, staff, and other constituents."

CHSHR Honorees ranged from the 10-student St. Therese Academy in Irving, Texas, to St. Thomas Aquinas High School, Fort Lauderdale, Fla., a school with 2,100 students. Pennsylvania had two other honorees, Villa Maria Academy High School, Malvern, and Quigley Catholic High School, Baden.

The Catholic High School Honor Roll is an independent project of Acton Institute for Study of Religion & Liberty, an international research and educational organization. The list was produced in consultation with a national advisory board composed of Catholic college presidents and noted Catholic scholars.