

\*\*\* FOR RELEASE ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2007 \*\*\*

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## **Guerin Catholic Earns National Top 50 Ranking Fourth-Year Noblesville School is First Indianapolis-Area Catholic High School Named to Prestigious Catholic High School Honor Roll**

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Noblesville, IN – On Wednesday, October 17, 2007, the Acton Institute will announce St. Theodore Guerin High School as a 2007 recipient of the Catholic High School Honor Roll, an annual award that honors excellence among Catholic high schools nationwide.

Guerin Catholic is among only 50 schools in the United States selected each year and the first Indianapolis-area Catholic school to earn the distinction in the Honor Roll's four-year history. Guerin Catholic, which opened in 2004, was among 11 new Top 50 honorees this year.

Guerin Catholic officials will announce the award Wednesday at 11 a.m. in the school's gymnasium. The announcement will be followed by an all-school celebration and press conference.

"This honor is received with profound appreciation to the school's administrators, teachers, parents, student body, and supporters," said the Most Rev. **William L. Higi**, Bishop of the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana. "It is their determination and their devotion that have made Guerin Catholic a school of unique distinction."

The Honor Roll, an independent project of the Acton Institute (<http://www.acton.org/>), recognizes and encourages excellence in Catholic secondary education. It is a critical resource for parents and educators, honoring schools that excel in three categories:

- *Academic excellence*
- *Catholic identity*
- *Civic education*

This year's list includes 11 new honorees as well as 11 schools that have earned recognition each of the past four years. Honorees range from newcomer schools such as Guerin Catholic to repeat honorees such as All Hallows High School in the Bronx and Brother Rice High School in Chicago.

"Being named one of the Top 50 high schools in the nation not only highlights Guerin Catholic's excellent curriculum and our commitment to building Catholic identity, but affirms what is most essential in our mission as a Catholic high school," said Fr. Ted Rothrock, President of Guerin Catholic.

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### **Join Us at the Official Announcement and Press Conference on Wednesday**

The Most Rev. **William L. Higi**, Bishop of the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana, will be among several Guerin Catholic administrators, staff, and students in attendance at Wednesday's official announcement.

**What:** Official announcement and press conference.

**When:** Wednesday, Oct. 17, 11 a.m.

**Where:** Guerin Catholic Gymnasium (15300 Gray Road, Noblesville, IN 46062). Click [Here](#) for directions.

**Who:** Several Guerin Catholic administrators, staff, and students will attend the press conference, including:

Most Rev. **William L. Higi**, Bishop  
Fr. **Ted Rothrock**, President  
Fr. **Dale Ehrman**, Vice President  
**Rick Wagner**, Principal  
Seniors **Adriana Pratt**, **Julian Murphy**, and  
**Nick Jonathon**.

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The Honor Roll (<http://www.chshonor.org/index.php>) is produced in consultation with a national advisory board comprised of Catholic college presidents and noted Catholic scholars. Advisory board member Rev. John Schlegel, President of Creighton University, said the Honor Roll is significant for Catholic education.

“Catholic High schools that excel at forming students in the faith and at teaching them to think critically and act virtuously are a great asset to the Church,” said Rev. Schlegel. “Not only do these schools deserve to be recognized, but they should also be imitated by all Catholic schools.”

According to the Acton Institute, all of America’s nearly 1,300 Catholic high schools were invited to apply to the Honor Roll by completing three detailed surveys, indicating that inclusion in the Honor Roll requires exceptional merit in each of the areas measured. This balanced approach assesses a school’s adherence to the Church’s educational calling, where the best schools offer more than the strong academic preparation for which Catholic education is known. Rather, the best schools also have vibrant Catholic identities and offer sound civic training that help prepare students to live their faith in the world.

That is certainly been the experience of Guerin senior Adriana Pratt, the school's senior class president and student body president. Pratt, 17, was a member of the school's inaugural freshman class.

"I just think Guerin is a place where I've had so many opportunities that I wouldn't have had elsewhere," said Pratt, who has competed on the school's tennis and volleyball teams, participated on the school's Indiana Academic Super Bowl team, volunteered for Campus Ministry programs, and participated in the school's highly regarded Art Club.

"I was originally considering five high schools, but Guerin had everything I wanted in those other schools," added Pratt, who is also a full diploma candidate in the school's highly regarded International Baccalaureate (IB) Program. "There's a nice sense of community and great academics, especially with our IB Program, and just so many extracurricular opportunities. I love the fact we incorporate Catholic identity into everything we do. Even with the IB Program – it focuses on cultures throughout the world but everything we talk about, we bring it back to Catholicism and how it relates to that."

A list of the Top 50 schools, as well as lists of the Top 25 schools in each category, will be posted at <http://www.chshonor.org> on Wednesday, October 17.

For more information, please contact **Kelly Antcliff**, Guerin Catholic Director of Marketing, at [kantcliff@guerincatholic.org](mailto:kantcliff@guerincatholic.org) or 317-582-0120 (x230). **Anthony Pienta**, Honor Roll Manager, can be reached at [info@chshonor.org](mailto:info@chshonor.org) or 616-454-3080.

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