

## **Greensburg Central Catholic High School makes national honor roll for Catholic identity**

GREENSBURG — Greensburg Central Catholic High School has been named to the National Catholic High School Honor Roll for the second consecutive cycle, this time receiving honorable mention for its Catholic identity.

The school received honorable mention for academic excellence in 2008, which was the first year the school had been named to the national honor roll, but the 2010 citation is special.

“To be recognized as a top-performing high school again is so important to us, but to be singled out for Catholic identity is especially meaningful as that has been our number-one administrative priority over the past two years,” said Don Favero, principal.

The Catholic High School Honor Roll, which recognizes and encourages excellence in Catholic secondary education, cites the top 50 Catholic high schools in the nation every two years and gives just six honorable mentions in three categories: academic excellence, Catholic identity and civic education.

The Honor Roll is a project of the Acton Institute in Grand Rapids, Mich., an independent research and educational organization, and is produced in consultation with a national advisory board comprised of Catholic college presidents and Catholic scholars.

“Catholic schools must examine themselves on a regular basis using a well-rounded approach that assesses adherence to the church’s educational calling,” said advisory board member Bishop David M. O’Connell, former president of The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C., who is now bishop of Trenton, N.J.

Favero said the keys to Greensburg Central Catholic gaining the national recognition begin with Bishop Lawrence E. Brandt’s leadership and support and his vision for faith formation and overall excellence in Catholic education.

Favero also credited the ongoing leadership of Trent Bocan, superintendent of Catholic schools, especially through his Vision for Catholic Schools, and the work of Bob Sherwin, managing director of the Office for Evangelization and Faith Formation, and the Faith Formation Leadership Committee.

“The administration has insisted that Catholic identity permeate everything that we do here on our campus and in our classrooms,” Favero said. “I am so grateful for the cooperation of faculty and staff, along with our chaplain, Father Alan N. Polczynski. That is why we are recognized for this commitment and viewed as a top-performing Catholic high school coast to coast. Every member of the Greensburg Central Catholic school community shares in this honor.”

Noting that the emphasis on the school’s Catholic identity and faith formation “will remain our number-one priority in daily school life,” Favero said the honor is proof the school is living up to its mission “to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the young of the Diocese of Greensburg and to seek excellence in academics and accomplishment in all school activities.”

Bocan said being cited as part of the National Catholic High School Honor Roll “validates our emphases on excellence in providing a focus on formation in the Catholic faith in an environment that also emphasizes superb scholarship.”

He said the acknowledgement is the result of teamwork among our bishop, clergy women religious, administration, staff and students “to ensure we are honest to our mission.”

“The school’s administration often notes that Greensburg Central Catholic is ‘America’s Best High School,’” Bocan said, congratulating all the people involved in the process that led to the honor. “Certainly, this recognition is indicative of the school being close to that goal.”

**For more information about the National Catholic High School Honor Roll, visit [www.chshonor.org](http://www.chshonor.org).**