



Press Release

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SCA senior wins essay scholarship contest

St. Cecilia Academy senior Olivia Reed was recently announced as one of the five winners in the 2011 Fireside Essay Scholarship competition. Her essay, on the topic of the importance of religious education, was from a pool of 380 qualifying applications.

The contest is sponsored by Fireside Catholic Publishing, which created the scholarship to honor students who have embraced religious education in Catholic high schools. This is the 21st year the company has sponsored the scholarship.

Olivia's essay speaks of her experience in searching for the truth and of the impact her education at St. Cecilia had in eventually leading to her conversion to the Catholic faith.

"Since coming to St. Cecilia, Olivia has confronted and pondered the questions raised in her religion classes," said Olivia's religion teacher, Sister Thomas Aquinas, O.P. "Receiving recognition for her essay on the impact her religious education at St. Cecilia Academy has had on her is a fitting tribute to the integrity of her search for truth and meaning in life."

Olivia has truly embraced the experience of being in a Catholic high school. She is involved in Model United Nations and is the president of the French Club.

Olivia feels that her Catholic education has prepared her for college and her future because, "I have a stronger sense of who I am and how I am going to spend my life and the choices I'll make."

She also speaks fondly of her Catholic friends who have shown you can be smart and fun while having a strong faith. "They have changed my life," Olivia said.

St. Cecilia Academy—Nashville's oldest private high school founded in 1860 by the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia Congregation—is celebrating its 150th anniversary throughout the 2010-2011 school year. The Academy has been named to the Top 50 best Catholic high schools in the U.S. list five times since 2004. Eighty-five percent of the 53 Class of 2010 members were offered college scholarships totaling \$5.5 million. That equals an average of over \$100,000 in offered college scholarships per graduate.