



## Press Release

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### St. Cecilia Academy named a Top 50 Catholic high school in the nation for the fifth time

The National Catholic High School Honor Roll announced its sixth selection of the best 50 Catholic secondary schools in the United States recently and the list included Nashville's St. Cecilia Academy. The purpose of the Honor Roll is to recognize and encourage excellence in Catholic secondary education. It is a critical resource for parents and educators that distinguishes those schools that excel in three categories: academic excellence, Catholic identity, and civic education.

To see a list of the top 50 schools, as well as lists of the 10 honorable mention schools in each category, visit [www.chshonor.org](http://www.chshonor.org).

"Recognition of St. Cecilia Academy as one of the top Catholic high schools in the country comes at the perfect time to enhance our sesquicentennial celebration," said Assistant Principal of Advancement Sister Thomas Aquinas, O.P. "We are grateful for this strong affirmation of our St. Cecilia difference of providing excellent academics in a community of faith and service for the past 150 years."

The Honor Roll is an independent project of the Acton Institute, an international research and educational organization. It is produced in consultation with an advisory board comprised of Catholic college presidents and scholars. Advisory board member Very Rev. David M. O'Connell, President of Catholic University of America, said the Honor Roll's evaluation method is indispensable.

"Catholic schools must examine themselves on a regular basis using a well-rounded approach that assesses adherence to the Church's educational calling," O'Connell said. "The Honor Roll strengthens schools by encouraging high standards and vibrant Catholicism."

In its seven years, the Honor Roll has seen over 50 percent of America's nearly 1,300 Catholic high schools participate at least once. The best schools demonstrate a balanced excellence, which includes an active Catholic culture, sound college preparation and integration of Church teaching in all departments. These schools also display sound moral, catechetical and civic formation that prepares students for vocations in the world as political, religious, scientific, and business leaders.

St. Cecilia Academy is Nashville's oldest private high school founded in 1860 by the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia Congregation. The academy is celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **About The National Catholic High School Honor Roll**

*The National Catholic High School Honor Roll is a list of the top 50 Catholic high schools in the United States, where schools are examined on the criteria of academic excellence, Catholic identity, and civic education. The purpose of the Honor Roll is to recognize and encourage excellence in Catholic secondary education, and is a resource for parents, schools, donors, and colleges.*

*The Honor Roll is an independent project of the Acton Institute, an international research and educational organization. The Honor Roll was produced in consultation with a national advisory board comprised of Catholic college presidents and Catholic scholars. For more on Acton, please go to [www.acton.org](http://www.acton.org).*

***Questions about the Honor Roll may be directed to Kara Eagle at (616) 454-3080, [keagle@acton.org](mailto:keagle@acton.org) or [info@chshonor.org](mailto:info@chshonor.org).***

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