



Region 11 Athletic Ministry
Archdiocese of Philadelphia

Board of Athletic Directors
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The 2017 Region 11 Meredith Merlini Catholic Youth Scholarship Program

The Region 11 CYO Board of Athletic Directors is pleased to continue our Scholarship Program for graduating 8th graders from its member parishes who are continuing their education next Fall at an Archdiocesan or private Catholic high school. The Scholarship is named in honor of Meredith Merlini, the long-time Region 11 coach, athletic director, commissioner, and Chair of our CYO Board.

In the program last year we received 52 essays for scholarship consideration. We asked the students to write about a professional athlete whose qualities and behaviors would make him or her an ideal CYO role model. The essays were evaluated anonymously by a panel of nine long-serving former CYO administrators and five scholarships for \$500 each were awarded to:

Benjamin Lilly – St. David parish, attending Archbishop Wood High School
Benjamin McGrath – St. Luke the Evangelist parish, attending La Salle College High School
Sean Rock – St. Luke the Evangelist parish, attending Bishop McDevitt High School
Rose Vizza – Nativity of Our Lord parish, attending Villa Joseph Marie High School
Brian Woodring – Our Lady of Good Counsel parish, attending Archbishop Wood High School

This year we will again award five scholarships of \$500 each. The eligibility criteria have not changed. The graduating 8th grader must have been a CYO participant during grade school and must be continuing his or her education at an Archdiocesan or private Catholic high school.

Interested 8th graders are invited to submit a one-page essay in **word .doc or .pdf format only** – no “Google Docs” – on the topic below by Tuesday, May 9, 2017 to be considered for one of the \$500 scholarships. **Because the essays will be evaluated anonymously, students should not identify their specific parishes in the essay itself. Include the following information only in the email:**

NAME – PARISH - CYO ACTIVITIES - HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDING FALL OF 2017:
Please return to: 2017scholarship@region11cyo.org by **Tuesday, May 9, 2017**

2017 CYO Scholarship Question:

At the 2016 Olympics, we were reminded of what our CYO ideals of good sportsmanship are all about. When New Zealand runner Nikki Hamblin tripped and fell to the ground during the 5,000 meter race, she accidentally brought American Abbey D'Agostino down behind her. D'Agostino was quick to get up, but instead of immediately attempting to catch the pack of runners, the American helped the stricken Hamblin to her feet. "Get up, get up! We have to finish!" D'Agostino told her. "This is the Olympic Games. We have to finish this." The two shaken women were able to finish the race together, although well behind the other runners. Write about 2 other examples in the world of sports – plus a personal experience – that similarly exemplify our CYO ideals of good sportsmanship.