

HANDS OF CHRIST

CLASS OF 2010

Information



OVERVIEW

The *Hands of Christ* is a recognition program sponsored by the Department of Evangelization and Catechesis of the Diocese of Rochester to assist parishes in affirming their high school seniors who have been the “Hands of Christ” in their church, home, school and community. Recognized seniors are invited to receive a plaque from Bishop Clark at one of three special Recognition Ceremonies held in March 2010

CRITERIA

Parishes are invited to select as many graduating high school seniors as they wish who meet the following criteria to receive this very special recognition:

- Has **consistently** demonstrated a Christian attitude by word and example
- Has been **actively involved** in the parish as well as their school or community
- Has been a **positive role model** to their peers, younger children and adults.
- Is a **practicing Roman Catholic** in a parish in the Diocese of Rochester-attends Mass regularly
- Is currently a **high school senior**

NOMINATION PROCESS

Youth Ministers, Catechetical Leaders, CYO Coaches, Scout Leaders, Pastoral Leaders or other adults involved with the youth of the parish, may make nominations but **the Pastor/Pastoral Leader must approve each nomination***. Parishes are asked to develop their own process for nominating seniors for this recognition. Some suggestions are included below.

Some Examples of Different Nomination Processes:

- Adults who work with the youth gather to discern who is to be nominated.
- Youth Minister brings a list of recommended seniors to the parish staff.
- The Youth Minister/Staff recommends nominations to the Pastoral Leader.
- An invitation for nominations is made to the parish at large for anyone meeting the above criteria.

Online Registration Only

REGISTRATION PROCESS

- Nominators should fill out **one form for each senior**
- Youth Ministry Leaders will collect all forms for review then submit the forms to the pastor or pastoral administrator for approval and signature. *See attached form for written approval.
- The next step is to input all nominees **online** at www.dor.org click on Youth Ministry then Hands of Christ. **Registrations will only be accepted using the online registration**
- To receive the password, contact Mary Greenblatt by e-mail at Greenblatt@dor.org.
- All nomination forms should be stored at the parish.
- Youth Ministry Leaders are asked to inform the nominated seniors, along with their families, so they can make plans to attend one of the services in the Spring.
- Recipients will receive a letter from the Diocese of Rochester inviting them to one of three celebrations. Recipients need not RSVP.

HANDS OF CHRIST RECOGNITION CELEBRATIONS

Three separate *Liturgy of the Word* services will be held at which seniors will receive their plaques in the context of a prayerful celebration highlighting their service and ministry. A letter with further information and directions will be sent from the Diocese in January 2010 to all nominated seniors inviting them, their families, friends and nominators to join together at one of the services to be held in the Spring.

The nominated senior may attend any one of the services without prior notification. It is not necessary to R.S.V.P. If a senior cannot attend one of the services, the senior or the parish should arrange for the plaque to be picked up after one of the services by someone else (mailing plaques cost \$3).

RECOGNITION SERVICES

There will be three recognition services for recipients to choose from. One in the Southern Tier and two in Monroe County (east and west). Dates and times will be announced.

PARISH RECOGNITION OF RECIPIENTS

Receiving the **Hands of Christ** recognition is quite an honor and parishes are strongly urged to recognize their own recipients at parish liturgies. Parishes may choose to invite one or more of their recipients to share a witness talk during or after the homily.

QUESTIONS

Contact Donna Gray, Ministry Associate at 328-3210
Monroe County or 800-388-7177 Outside Monroe Co.

Deadline Dates and Costs

Received by January 18th.....	\$20
After January 18th.....	\$27
Plaques needing to be Mailed.....	Add \$3

HANDS OF CHRIST NOMINATION FORM

CLASS OF 2010

(PAPER FORMS TO BE KEPT ON FILE AT PARISH)

Senior's Name (*To appear on the plaque*): _____

Address: _____ Phone: (____) _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Parish: _____ Location: _____

School: _____

Nominator's Name: _____ Day Phone: (____) _____

Signature of Nominator: _____ *Date:* _____

Signature of Pastoral Leader: _____ *Date:* _____

Please indicate why this person is nominated to receive this award:

Please Attach the Following Fee with All Signed Forms:

If Faxed/Received by January 18.....\$20 If Received After January 18.....\$27

If plaque must be mailed to recipient.....Add \$ 3

Make Checks Payable to the Diocese of Rochester and Mail or FAX to:

HANDS OF CHRIST † Attn.: Youth Ministry Office

1150 Buffalo Road † Rochester, NY 14624

FAX: 585-328-3149

Make additional copies of this form if your parish has more than ten recipients. Pastoral Leader signature required on all forms

Pastor/Pastoral Administrator Hands of Christ Signature Form

Parish Name: _____

Parish Location: _____

Names of Seniors Receiving Recognition

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

Signature of Pastoral Leader: _____

Date: _____

Send the signed form to:

**Diocese of Rochester
1150 Buffalo Road
Rochester, NY 14624**

SAMPLE: This is a sample PARISH letter that you may send to Hands of Christ recipients from your parish. Many young people would like to include this recognition on their college applications. This letter would serve as confirmation of the recognition. Use it or modify it if you wish.

(PARISH LETTER HEAD)

(DATE)

Dear ***(NAME OF YOUNG PERSON)***,

On behalf of ***(PASTORAL LEADER)***, ***(YOUTH MINISTRY LEADER)***, and the Diocese of Rochester, we would like to extend our warmest congratulations to you for being selected by ***(your parish)*** to be one of the recipients of the *Hands of Christ* recognition for the Class of 2010.

The *Hands of Christ* is a recognition given to high school seniors in the Diocese of Rochester who have demonstrated a life of service, faith and Catholic example in their parish, home and school communities. Being recognized with the *Hands of Christ* is both an honor and a sign of leadership among parishes and peers in our Diocese.

As a recipient of this special recognition you are invited to attend, along with your family, friends and parish ministers, a Recognition Service to be celebrated in your honor by Bishop Clark. There are three different services around the Diocese. Dates are in the process of being set. You will be notified about the exact dates and times as soon as final plans have been made.

In the meantime, feel free to consider this letter a confirmation that you are a Hands of Christ Recipient! Be sure to include this recognition on your college applications if college is your post high school destination.

Sincerely,

(PASTOR, PASTORAL ADMINISTRATOR)

(YOUTH MINISTRY LEADER)