



Visit us at yumacatholic.org or call us at 928-317-7910 for more information

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.
John 13:34

YC Family and Friends,



Welcome back! I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and is well on their way to a Happy New Year. We are excited that a couple of our students have brought in the new year with very good news. Jose Mojardin and Eduardo Felix have both been recipients of the QuestBridge College Match Scholarship. Next fall, Eduardo Felix will be attending Rice University and Jose Mojardin will be attending Yale University. The QuestBridge National College Match is a national program that connects high –achieving, income qualified high school seniors with full scholarships to the nation’s top colleges. Eduardo’s scholarship will be worth over \$266,000 and Jose’s scholarship will be worth over \$314,000. These two students are very deserving of their scholarships and we are very proud of them.

The senior class is on track to beat last years scholarship total of \$9.4 million dollars. We are excited at the possibilities to come as we begin the second semester. Jose Mojardin and Eduardo Felix have definitely helped us in that arena.

The number of kids that are taking dual credit classes at Yuma Catholic is at an all-time high. Last semester Yuma Catholic students took a total of 250 hours of classes at Arizona Western College that will transfer on to the Universities that they choose to attend. We currently have a minimum of 8 seniors that will graduate Arizona Western with an Associate’s Degree the week prior to our own Yuma Catholic Graduation. Our students continue to set the bar high for the next class of students to come through our halls.

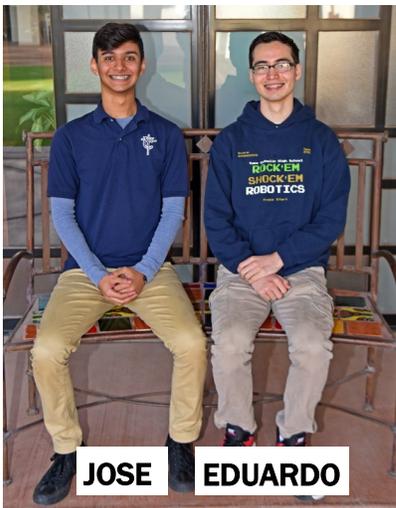
Over the break we were able to resurface and patch the parking lot and the road that circles around the school. We are in the process of making much needed repairs to the sprinkler systems so that we can keep as much water off of the cement and asphalt as possible. The water is the number one cause of the erosion and potholes that begin to form.

Finally, we would like to wish all the winter sports teams good luck as they are set to begin the state playoffs in February. Boys and Girls soccer are both currently undefeated and poised to make a state title run. Girls basketball is having one of the best seasons they have ever had and are also poised to make a deep run in the playoffs. Good Luck Shamrocks!

Rhett Stallworth-Principal, Yuma Catholic HS



**Tradition Never Graduates!
But Our Students Do!**



Congratulations Questbridge Scholars

CHOSEN FROM OVER 16,000 APPLICANTS

Jose Mojardin

He will attend Yale in the fall

He will study Biomedical Engineering with the goal of become a doctor

“The initial shock of realizing that I am going to have to leave my family and friends was a bit overwhelming but I have gotten over that and am excited to attend my dream school!”

Eduardo Felix

He will attend Rice in the fall

He will study Astrophysics with the goal of becoming an astronaut one day

“On a personal level, it is great that this scholarship confirms that hard work does pay off.”

To read the full story on Jose and Eduardo go to Yumacatholic.org “News and Announcements”

A Letter from the Advancement Office

Happy New Year! As we embark on the second half of the 2018-2019 school year, the students still need your support in order to reach the goal for the annual fund. Yuma Catholic High School balances the budget with the annual fund each year, meaning we need to take in as much revenue as we expend providing a top-notch education. Annual Fund donations keep the curriculum, athletic programs and special activities going strong for our student body. Our next effort to support the students through annual giving is the *Love Your Shamrock* effort in February. You can donate to recognize and demonstrate your heart for a current Shamrock, Alumni, Faculty, Staff, Coach or Family Member. Share the love by making a donation to honor them. All donations will be displayed on campus. Current Shamrocks honored will also receive some additional gifts for their hard work this year in the classroom! Below are the top ten reasons a Yuma Catholic High School education makes a difference in the lives of our students and why your giving makes a life-long impact:

- High Academic Achievement Focused on ACT College and Career Readiness Standards
- College Preparatory Curriculum with Dual Enrollment Partnership on Campus
- First Future Farmers of America (FFA) Chapter in a Private School in Arizona
- Small Classroom Sizes, Hands on Labs, Success Period and Highly Qualified, Accessible Faculty/Staff that Know Your Name
- High College Scholarship Attainment Rate per Student
- Emphasis on Catholic Identity, Moral Development, Service to Others and Leadership Skills
- Well-Rounded Extra Curricular Activities with High Participation – 16 Athletic Programs and Robotics, Odyssey of the Mind and FFA are just a few others
- Closely Monitored Use of Technology with One to One Chrome Books for Students
- Family Environment with Strong Commitment to Student Support and Achievement
- Safe, Inclusive and Disciplined Campus

Respectfully,



Bobbi Ukura-YC Advancement Director

“I have not found a more powerful way to bear fruit with a contribution than through a gift to Yuma Catholic. Our collective dollars are used to strengthen our children, our faith, our values and our community.”

Howard Gwynn-Board of Trustees, Advancement Committee Chair



YUMA CATHOLIC'S ODYSSEY OF THE MIND TEAM READY TO SHINE

Teamwork, imagination, and lots of duct tape; Odyssey of the Mind is the word creative come to life. It is a competition based around one of five annually changing long-term problems. In order to solve the chosen long-term problem, the team must create a skit, complete with original costumes and backdrops, while abiding by specific requirements that vary for each problem. The team must also accomplish this task in the most creative way possible, whether that be through using trash items in their backdrop, singing throughout the skit, or riddling their script with puns, as they are judged based not only on their meeting of the requirements, but on the overall creativity of their presentation. Based on the team's scores from their long term problem along with the place they receive in their division, the team is able to advance to the next level of competition, the highest being world finals, where teams from across the globe gather to vie for the first place spot.

Currently at Yuma Catholic, Mrs. Hennig and Mrs. Whinnery give graciously of their time to keep the Odyssey

of the Mind program up and running. They coach the five person team comprised of Bianca Garcia (9), Damien Roberts (9), Aries Roberts (10), Sophye Carrizales (10), and Lily Imai (11). All have been working hard on creating their props and script for their Leonardo Da Vinci themed problem. The regional competition is to be held on February 16 at Ron Watson Middle School. From regionals is the state competition, which is held during the first weekend of April at Canyon Del Oro High School in Tucson. If the team were to qualify to advance from state, they would head to the next and final competition, held at Michigan State University at the end of May.

Damien Roberts, Lily Imai, Aries Roberts, Bianca Garcia
(not pictured Sophye Carrizales)



ROBOTICS TEAM GEARING UP FOR COMPETITION

The FIRST Robotics Competition is an international high school competition, in which it pairs students with engineer mentors in an attempt to build a robot. Each year, there is a different game designated and everybody is given a six-week period to design and construct a robot, according to the rules of the game. With the limited amount of time, students have to design, build and program a robot, also the team has to fundraise, volunteer in community service, and increase exposure of the team. FRC is a competition that promotes gracious professionalism. That translates to when teams compete against each other without degrading or causing problems, but treat one another with respect and empathy. Like any other competition, everybody will try to win but that isn't what FRC is mainly about. If a team needs help or advice with their robot, students from different teams reach out their hand and help them. Not giving it a second thought in the idea of one less competitor. The goal of FRC is to inspire the students to be future leaders in the science and technology field. At the end of the competition, there are many awards that help promote this value they uphold; for example, the best award you can receive at the FRC competition is the chairman's award. The eligibility requirements for this award are that the team has to serve as a model for all other teams and they best embody what FIRST is all about. Our team is the same as any other team, we cannot accomplish anything without support. We would greatly appreciate your help and support with a donation or team sponsorship. Contact Yuma Catholic if you're interested in helping our team reach our goals.

Submitted by Robotics Team Member Marlon Olivas



YUMA CATHOLIC'S FFA CHARTER IS OFF TO A GREAT START IN YEAR 2

The Yuma Catholic FFA is in full swing after a successful first semester. Community Involvement, Career Development Events, and Supervised Agriculture Experiences have been our top priority. Our chapter was blessed with large community support at our annual FFA BBQ. The chapter has been studying and competing hard in several local contests. With hard work and dedication our floriculture and marketing team even traveled to compete at a state competition. Marketing team took 4th place overall with Kaitlyn Green taking 1st place individual. Our first year FFA members have been sworn in to the chapter with our annual greenhand dipping ceremony. Students are gaining a wide variety of animal knowledge inside and outside of the classroom. Fair is right around the corner we are happy to announce that Yuma Catholic FFA members will have an assortment of projects ranging from plants, photograph and animals. We are gearing up for our first competition of the semester which will be February 1st. Our meat evaluation team, Livestock judging team, Vet science team, and job interview participants will be competing. Wish us luck!



STUDENT COUNCIL ON THE ROAD FOR THE STATE CONVENTION

Over the last weekend of January 2019, 14 members of the Yuma Catholic Student Council earned the opportunity to attend the Arizona Association of Student Councils State Convention in Prescott, AZ. There were over 2300 students that participated from 157 schools all around the state. This year's theme was "Leadership is Timeless." Members dressed up each day according to the theme spirit days of the past, the future, and the present. They were able to participate in neat activities that allowed them to share ideas with new people and bring back to their own school. Motivational keynote speakers shared some of their life experiences and left members inspired to take action. In addition, the leadership workshops enhanced the skills that many great leaders possess.

The overall atmosphere at the convention was very warm and welcoming. Students offered each other signs of support and

encouragement. Everyone was open to the experiences and learned to trust the process. Although everyone went as different schools, they all came together as one family. As a council, members learned that they are the voice of Yuma Catholic. Every member brought back their very own leadership experience and knowledge. The memories that they experienced will be held on to for the rest of their high school years. State taught us that everyone has a leader inside of them, and it is their own choice to be heard and to lead others to success. We learned that we can light up someone's smile with one single compliment or just a wave and that our voices are our power and it will follow us no matter where we go. Although the experience was short, leadership is timeless.

Submitted by Anny Zhen-Chen

#AASCCANGEDMYLIFE



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: LORETTA PEFFERS CLASS OF 2015, PART 1

It's a blessing to be able to check in and see how our Shamrocks are doing at different points in their life after leaving YC. The stories are often filled with ups and downs, but what is consistent in all of them is hard work, perseverance and a willingness to learn to reach their goals. Loretta Peffers, class of 2015, is no exception. As she settles into her final semester at West Point we catch up on how she got there.

The military tradition in Loretta's family runs deep. When asked how this impacted her decision to pursue a military career her answer is both surprising and thoughtful. "Not only has my father served in the Army for over 20 years but my mom's father and grandfather were career army veterans as well. My dad's father served in the Navy. Being raised with value of service really influenced my decision on where to go to college. This wasn't solely inspired by the men in my family but by the women. All of the spouses of those men were military spouses, equally dedicated to service and duty for country. Having both my mom and dad fostering such a culture I think really made a difference in what type of life I wanted to pursue after YC."

Loretta reflected on her time here at YC and there were a few things that stood out to her that made a big difference in her transition from YC to West Point. "My experience with dual credit classes at YC gave me an upper hand when I got to West Point. Specifically, Mrs. Stallworth's psychology class and Dr. Butta's world religions class. I took both of those courses at West Point at the 300 (third year) level and the foundation I got in YC classrooms set me a part from my peers."

Loretta pointed to another foundation set at YC, "West Point is designed as a developmental institution. To be developed, one has to overcome numerous challenges. My faith has been what reminds me of my own strength every time I face a new

challenge from West Point. Whether it's before a big test, or it's the 5th day I've been living in the woods and without a shower, I always keep a copy of the Serenity Prayer in my pocket."

Asked to sum up her time at West Point she stated, "In two words, life changing. I have learned that with enough grit and determination, there is nothing I can't do. I think the story that best describes that sentiment is the Indoor Obstacle Course Test every cadet takes each year at the academy. The test is a series of 10 events that have to be performed in less than 5 minutes and that was my truest test of my physical, mental, emotional, and even spiritual strength."

Like at YC, Loretta has been very active outside the classroom at West Point. She is a member of the West Point Glee Club where she has performed for groups like area high schools all the way to the President. This semester she is the company Trust Officer where she is responsible for "maintaining high morale and strong mental health for the other 100+ individual I live with."

Getting to and successfully completing her time at West Point is due to a great support system of family, mentors and classmates. Check back for part two with Loretta in the Yuma Catholic Annual Report. We will follow up with what happens after graduation and recognize all those people who made it all possible. Keep up the great work Loretta!



Loretta and YC Class of 2018, Midshipmen Nick Hugh at this years Army-Navy game