

CHARLOTTE — Charlotte Catholic High School recently announced it has awarded 33 volunteers with the President's Volunteer Service Award, a national honor offered in recognition of volunteer service. Recipients include:

- Gold Award: Seth Tirrel, Caroline O'Rourke, Meghan Flyke, Winston Conrad, Nick Schaut, Penn Conrad and Meredith Campbell

- Silver Award: Benson Pierson, Katherine Murray, Stephanie Manasa, Hannah Phillips, Lauryn Fowler, Katherine Meanor, Katie Klochany, Melanie Runkle, Sydney Antolini and Ian Flyke

- Bronze Award: Cearra Stinson, Devin O'Rourke, Meghan Neal, Quinn Haislip, Sam Deberry, Sophia Deberry, Rachel Sidari, Lindsay Cosentino, Kylie Ryan, Ryan Francis, Grace Linus, Erika Hibler, Kelsey Noonan, Nick Olsen, Molly Sweeney and Dylan Powers

Established in 2003, the award is available on an annual basis to individuals, groups and families who have met or exceeded requirements for volunteer service and have demonstrated exemplary citizenship through volunteering. As one of thousands of certifying organizations participating in the program, Charlotte Catholic High School confers the award to recognize the outstanding achievements of its volunteers.

"In his 2002 State of the Union Address, President George W. Bush created the USA Freedom Corps, and called on every American to make a lifelong commitment to volunteer service. The President's Volunteer Service Award recognizes individuals and families who have answered that call," said Christopher Causebrook, CCHS school counselor. "America's volunteers work to make our communities stronger and safer. As a certifying organization for the award program, Charlotte Catholic High School is proud to be aligned with this prestigious volunteer award, and we are especially proud of our volunteers who have made volunteer service a central part of their lives."

The President's Volunteer Service Award is an award for volunteer service that every American – from every age and every walk of life – can aspire to achieve. To be eligible, individuals, families and groups submit a record of their annual volunteer service hours to participating

certifying organizations, such as CCHS, that will verify the service and deliver the award. Eligibility is based on hour requirements varying by age.

"These recipients are role models for all Americans," Causebrook said. "Each volunteer hour contributed makes a difference in improving the quality of life for others, and I encourage everyone to contribute to our community by volunteering. Volunteers bring us closer together as families, as communities and as a nation, through their commitment."

The award is issued by the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation, a group created by President Bush to recognize the valuable contributions volunteers are making to our nation. Chaired by two-time Super Bowl Champion Darrell Green, with former U.S. Senators Bob Dole and John Glenn as honorary co-chairs, the council comprises leaders in government, media, entertainment, business, education, nonprofits and volunteer service organizations, and community volunteering.

For more information about volunteering at CCHS, contact Causebrook at 704 543-5503, ext.4, or at cwcausebrook@charlottecatholic.com.

— Jennifer B. Johnson, special to the Catholic News Herald