

2013 Young Woman of the Year



2013 Young Woman of the Year: Kathleen Marie Kubicki

Virginia State Program Chairman Mike Gaspers provided the following introduction of the Virginia Knights of Columbus Young Woman of the Year at the annual Awards Brunch at the 113th state convention:

Our Young Woman of the Year has an outstanding resume of Advanced Placement and Honors Classes. She has taken AP classes in English Literature, Biology, Physics, Government, Calculus, Latin, European History, U.S. History, Psychology, Statistics – well you get the point. She has scored 5 on almost every one of her AP exams. She is a member of the National Honor Society, the National Math Honor Society, the National English Honor Society, the Thespian Honor Society, the Spanish Honor Society and the National Science Honor Society.

On the honors and recognition side, this young woman is a National Merit Finalist, a Nominee to the National Youth Leadership Forum, a Jefferson Scholarship Nominee and a Rotary Club Brickell Scholar. She has also received the Jefferson Book Award and the Daughters of the American Revolution Award.

At school, this young woman has been a member of the Varsity Track and Cross Country Teams. This year she was voted Captain of the Cross Country Team and received the Cross Country Spirit and Leadership Award. She is a member of the Latin Club, serving as Vice-President this year, and is the President of the Spanish Honor Society this year. A member of the Drama Club, the Virginia Thespian Conference, she has been involved theater productions every year during her high school career, including major roles in her sophomore and senior year, and a lead role in her junior year.

Outside of school, she has worked for the Virginia Beach Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals as a Junior Volunteer for three years, and has been a Virginia Aquarium Junior Docent for the past 5 years, where she has volunteered over 300 hours. She also recently obtained her SCUBA certification after extensive classes and training. Now I only get 24 hours in my day, but our young woman of the year must have a special arrangement with Father Time to get at least 36 hours in her day. Otherwise, I have no idea how she find the time for all her activities.

At her church, she worked in the church nursery in her sophomore and junior year, and after being confirmed in her junior year she became a youth leader and core team member of Life Teen at her parish. She attends weekly Life Nights, and many times plans and facilitates the Life Night activities. Our young woman has been attending Christian Formation classes throughout high school, and in her words, "I am now more joyful than ever to be a Catholic, and my education has given me the support to go out and defend my faith and spread the Word of God."

Again paraphrasing her words, "my own immediate family has had a lasting influence on my morals and my drive to pursue my goals. I have been blessed with a secure, stable and supportive family; a loving mother and father and three devoted sisters, all driven by a love of God and an appreciation for their gifts. I used to grumble about having to get up so early on Sunday to go to Mass, but I slowly began to see why my parents were so grounded in the Catholicism. One day I plan on starting my own family, and I will pass on the tradition of dragging my children out of bed on Sunday morning, because I am now so thankful my mother did that to me."

What else can I say, Dad you did a good job! It is my pleasure to announce that the winner of the 2012-2013 Virginia State Council Young Woman of the Year –submitted by Pope Leo XIII Council 10804 in Virginia Beach, Kathleen Marie Kubicki.