

Scholastic Superstars 5/9/2018

Twenty-five students were chosen by judges from local colleges and universities to represent the best and brightest of NEPA's graduating classes as part of The Times-Tribune's annual Scholastic Superstar program.



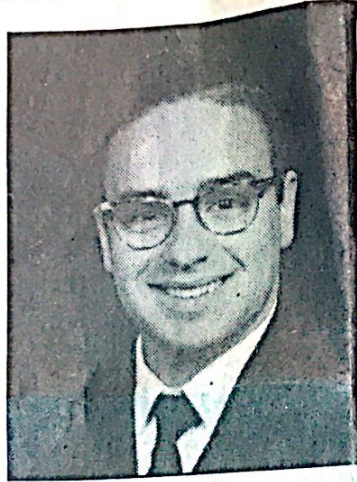
Gabriel Ramos, North Pocono High School

After hearing Pope Francis's call to a Year of Mercy, Gabriel Ramos started a blessing-bags initiative to help out those struggling in the community.

He fills purses and bags with personal care items for homeless men, women, infants and veterans and distributes them through the help of local organizations, including the Catherine McAuley Center and St. Joseph's Commons.

With the help of his church and community, Gabriel provided more than 300 bags over the last four years.

Among his many accomplishments, Gabriel is most proud of being honored as a Spotlight Scholar of the Carson Scholar program, an award established by



Candy and Ben Carson, U.S. secretary of housing and urban development.

Gabriel plans to study to become a physician but because of Carson, he is considering becoming a neurologist or a neurosurgeon.

At just 13 years old, Gabriel achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. He is also a classically trained opera singer and classical and flamenco guitar player. He loves to read and translate

Latin texts, and enjoys traveling. The North Pocono senior is a member of National Honor Society, Mathletes Club, Red Cross Club, golf team, and treasurer of the North Pocono Odyssey Players. He is the co-president of the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science group and achieved a perfect score in the competition. He's a Wildlife Leadership Academy certified wildlife conservation ambassador and sings for the Choral Society of Northeast PA as a tenor I and II, among other activities.

He's taken 12 Advanced Placement courses, was awarded an AP Scholar with distinction and is ranked second in his class. He is a National Hispanic Merit Scholar, National Merit Scholar semi-finalist, National PTA Youth Advocate of the Year Runner Up, National Latin Exam two-

time silver medalist, Young Classical Artist finalist for opera, honors vocalist at Carnegie Hall and Poetry Out Loud state runner up.

He is very involved with his church, St. Catherine's, and serves as a youth representative for the parish pastoral council.

The son of Julio Anibal and Kathy Ramos, Gabriel mentors students at the North Pocono Elementary Schools. He's amassed more than 815 hours of community service throughout high school.

After graduation, he plans to attend the University of Notre Dame as a Stamps Scholar in the Glynn Family Honors Program and major in classics with a minor in linguistics on a pre-med track.

— KATHLEEN BOLUS