



## HANDS OF CHRIST RECOGNITION 2024

The *Hands of Christ* is a recognition program, sponsored by the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis, in which the Most Reverend Bishop Salvatore R. Matano affirms high school seniors of our parishes who have been the “Hands of Christ” in their Churches, homes, schools and communities. Seniors will be recognized at one of several diocesan recognition ceremonies in 2024.

**The 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 and *attends* Mass.
- Is currently a *high school senior*.

**The Process to recognize your honorary seniors:**

- Youth Ministers, Catechetical Leaders, CYO Coaches, Scout Leaders, Pastoral Leaders, or other adults involved with the youth of the parish, make recommendations for recipients of the award to be *approved by the Pastor or Pastoral Leader*. Each parish develops their own process for this recognition (*See Helpful Hints Addendum*).
- The Youth Minister or designated minister compiles recommendations and submits them to the Pastor or Pastoral Leader for approval.
- As a part of the recommendation process or once recommendations are approved, the Youth Minister or designated minister must:
  - *Obtain a written response from each approved recipient as to why they see themselves as a Hand of Christ/what it means to be a Hand of Christ and how the Eucharist has helped them be the Hands of Christ*. These responses will help us select witness speakers and plan for the diocesan recognition ceremonies. Include responses in online registration(s). Lengthy responses can be emailed to [Mark.Capellazzi@dor.org](mailto:Mark.Capellazzi@dor.org).
  - *Enter registration information online* (email [Mark.Capellazzi@dor.org](mailto:Mark.Capellazzi@dor.org) for registration link) by **December 1, 2023**.
    - *Registrations received after December 1, 2023 will be assessed a late fee.*
    - REVIEW names and address information for accuracy before submitting registration.
    - If you have several recipients, it is recommended that you group them into multiple registrations to prevent the system from timing out and information not submitting.
      - **NOTE: You MUST use a unique email address for each registration.**
    - CHECK for a confirmation email following registration submission(s).
      - **NOTE: NO CONFIRMATION EMAIL=REGISTRATION FAILED**
    - Retain paper copy of nominations/registration for your files through the end of the current school year.
  - *Mail a check to the DOR following online registration.*
- Recipients who are registered by **December 1, 2023** will receive a letter from the Diocese of Rochester that acknowledges this recognition and shares information about diocesan recognition ceremonies.

### 2024 Hands of Christ Recognition:

The 2024 Hands of Christ recipients will be recognized at one of several diocesan recognition ceremonies. Ceremony dates and locations will be shared once the details have been confirmed!

**Deadline: December 1, 2023 | Cost: \$30**  
***Post-deadline registrations | Cost: \$40***