

## Fr. Robert G. Navarre Scholarship



*Beginning in 2009, Fr. Robert G. Navarre created a scholarship fund to support Catholic School graduates enrolled in accredited colleges or universities to help fund their higher education. In 2023, twin sisters Brooke and Laken DuRussel were recipients of the Fr. Robert G. Navarre Scholarship.*

Laken DuRussel, a 2022 graduate of Millington High School and former graduate of St. Elizabeth Area Catholic School, is currently enrolled as a sophomore at Michigan State University majoring in Animal Science and minoring in Agronomy. A rural mid-Michigan native, Laken has ambitions to begin a career in animal nutrition or crop and soil sales after graduation.

Thanks to the generosity of the Navarre Scholarship, Laken has been able to focus on her studies and take advantage of numerous professional opportunities throughout her time at MSU. Notably, she has been a member of the MSU Dairy Judging Team, winning 2nd place with her team at the Ireland Clonmel Agricultural Show, and 1st place in the Individual Brown Swiss Class at the World Dairy Expo.

Outside of her studies, Laken has also pursued her passions through a sustainability internship at the Star of the West Milling Company, and currently works part-time at the MSU Mason Research Farm. She credits the Navarre Scholarship with allowing her the opportunity to devote herself fully to her academic and professional goals, stating, "It means so much that people are willing to support students like me and invest in my future."



*"I'm so grateful for the generosity and giving hearts of those willing to help people they've never even met."*

Brooke DuRussel

Brooke DuRussel, also a Millington High School and St. Elizabeth Area Catholic School graduate, is also a MSU sophomore where she double majors in Physiology and Human Biology and minors in Health Promotion. She aspires to become an ophthalmologist after graduation and has been able to receive hands-on experience in the ophthalmology field by working as a tech at the Great Lakes Eye Institute in Saginaw.

Alongside her studies, Brooke is equally passionate about giving back to her community through service. She volunteers on the med-surg floor of Sparrow Hospital in Lansing, as well as with MSU's Adaptive Sports Program to assist individuals with physical and mental disabilities. To put her faith in action alongside her medical school aspirations, Laken also serves as a sacristy intern at St. Thomas Aquinas parish in Lansing, and states, "I know that no matter where I am, my Catholic Church family is supporting me."

Fr. Robert G. Navarre (1919-2008) served as the pastor of numerous parishes across Michigan, including St. Felix (Pinnebog), St. Roch (Caseville), St. Denis (Lexington), Sacred Heart (Bad Axe), St. Helen (Saginaw), St. Cecilia (Clare), St. Michael (Maple Grove), and St. Mary (Albee). His years of service to the Church earned him seats on the Diocesan Finance Board, Senate of Priests, Pastoral Administrators Commission, and Ministry to Priests Board, as well as the role of Diocesan Dean and Territorial Vicar.

In 2009, Fr. Navarre began a scholarship, one of the largest donations of his estate, to help provide financial assistance to practicing Catholics seeking higher education degrees after graduating from Catholic School. His generosity has inspired numerous others to support this endowment, leading to over \$128,000 gifted to students over the past 13 years.



*"I want to sincerely thank the donors who support the CCFMM's scholarships. Your generosity supports students who pursue academic excellence."*

Laken DuRussel



## Upcoming Scholarships

2024/2025 Scholarship Application Window

2024/2025 Catholic School Scholarship Application Window

October 2, 2023 - January 5, 2024

November 6, 2023 - January 5, 2024

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