



## SAINT RITA OF CASCIA HIGH SCHOOL

AN AUGUSTINIAN COLLEGE PREP SCHOOL

*Veritas † Unitas † Caritas*

August 26, 2022

Dear Principal:

We write to invite your 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys, that you feel exemplify leadership qualities, to apply for the Andrew Smialek '08 Leadership Award. Andy was a St. Rita student who was diagnosed with cancer before his freshman year at St. Rita, but he persevered through his illness and medical treatments with the love and support of his family at home and his St. Rita family. He has been described as the “epitome of a Rita Man” by those who knew him well. He studied hard, played football and was a true gentleman.

Andy’s leadership was quiet but effective. He was a young man of few words whose actions spoke volumes. He never questioned his faith even amidst great suffering, and he always attended the games of his schoolmates so he could support them. He made sure his homework was done every day despite great obstacles, and his highest concern was to take care of his mother and sisters. Andy’s infectious laugh and frequent invitation to “Let’s dance!” was his way of saying we can accomplish anything – even fighting cancer – with a positive attitude, hard work and a belief we can overcome even the longest odds. Andy’s courage and enthusiasm for life were passed on to his classmates and the entire St. Rita family, even after he passed away.

As an inspiration to a generation of Ritamen, Andy would have been the first to say that we all possess leadership qualities. We invite your 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys to apply for the Andrew Smialek '08 Leadership Award, so we can recognize and honor individual leadership – whether it is big or small. We welcome you to forward this information to students who you feel show leadership qualities. The application can also be downloaded from the St. Rita of Cascia High School website ([www.stritahs.com](http://www.stritahs.com)). Students can mail or scan and email their printed application along with supporting documents to the **Andrew Smialek '08 Leadership Award, c/o Mrs. Noreen Kelliher** ([nkelliher@stritahs.com](mailto:nkelliher@stritahs.com)) by **Friday, September 23, 2022**. Students will then be contacted to schedule an interview. The mailing address for St. Rita is 7740 S. Western Ave., Chicago, IL 60620. You may direct any questions to Mrs. Laura Kennedy at 773-925-6600, ex. 6625.

Thank you for sharing this information with your students and for everything you do for our community.

Sincerely,

Deacon John Donahue  
President

Mr. Joshua R. Blaszak  
Principal

*Please Note: Upon completion of the St. Rita entrance exam and financial aid application process, Smialek Leadership Award recipients will receive priority consideration if they qualify for need-based financial aid.*

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