

Our Lady of Sorrows Church

59 Cottage Street Sharon, MA 02067 781-784-2265

16 April 2019

Dear Michael C. Rothberg September 11th Memorial Scholarship Committee:

It is with great delight that I write a recommendation letter for Michael Holzman, whom I have had the privilege of working with during the past four years at Our Lady of Sorrows Church (OLOS). As the former Youth Minister and current Director of Faith Formation at OLOS, I've worked with Michael in numerous capacities, and I have been impressed over and over again by his character, personality, and way of being in the world.

Michael serves as a Peer Minister within our Faith Formation Program here at Our Lady of Sorrows. As a Peer Minister, Michael is responsible for facilitating small groups of 9th grade and 10th grade Confirmation students during our monthly meetings and seasonal retreats. Facilitating a small group involves leading discussions, managing minor behavioral issues within the group, and encouraging the participation of all small group members. Michael thrives in this role and it has been a pleasure to witness him lead in this capacity. I have observed that the students in Michael's group have fruitful conversations, and that they enjoy connecting with each other under his guidance. This is a testament to Michael's good-natured personality and strong leadership skills.

Michael's character is demonstrated through his service as a Peer Minister, and it also shines in "behind-the-scenes" ways as well. Michael is frequently the last teen to leave the room after church events, staying to straighten chairs and pick up pieces pretzels that have been crushed under other attendees' feet; he goes out of his way to talk to the shyer students who tend to stick to themselves on retreats; and he is one of my "go to" people when I need a teen representative for a committee or discussion. I know that I can count on Michael to be articulate, thoughtful and mature in all circumstances.

It is without hesitation that I recommend Michael for this scholarship. He exemplifies the academic promise, integrity, and service to community that Michael C. Rothberg exhibited and would be a worthy recipient of this honor. If I can be of any further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to be in touch. I would be delighted to speak with anyone about this young man of character.

Sincerely,

Teresa Coda



Director of Faith Formation
tcoda@olossaron.org