Matthew Ruiz, of East Stroudsburg, PA, has been awarded a $2,000 scholarship by the National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS) through the Emmett J. Doerr Memorial Scout Scholarship Fund. He is a member of St. John’s Catholic Church in the Diocese of Scranton. This year seven service scholarships totaling $20,000 were awarded nationwide to recognize scouts for outstanding service and leadership in four areas: Church, Community, School and Scouting.

At the age of 6, Matthew began playing piano and after years of hard work, he finally achieved his dream in 2017, when he was selected to play at Carnegie Hall. He performed again in 2019. This experience taught him to lead by example and reach for his goals. When asked why volunteering is important to him, Matthew responded, “Making a positive impact on society and giving back is part of who I am...Giving back makes me feel empowered by the change I can make in someone’s life, even if that giving requires a small sacrifice.” At his church, Matthew has been active as an altar server and lector. With his Youth Group, he participated in a Mission Trip which taught him to be even more thankful for all his blessings. He is a recipient of the Bishop’s Youth Award and received both the Ad Altare Dei and Pope Pius XII awards.

In his community, Matthew helped veterans shovel their driveways during the winter, assisted with road cleanups in fall and spring and served at a community dinner every month. He is also involved with several non-profit organizations, the American Red Cross, Special Olympics, Mady’s Kitchen, and Four Diamond Minithon, a childhood cancer fundraiser. Matthew organized a book drive for a local shelter, collected baby clothes for a women’s shelter, and baby item for a local maternity home.

Throughout his high school years, Matthew has been involved in Student Government and is a member of National Honor Society. He participated in Science Olympiad, Model UN, Key Club and Aspire Club, a social justice and global citizenship student group which organizes fundraisers to support charities. In addition, he received Varsity letters for Cross Country, Wrestling, Tennis, and Science Olympiad.

Matthew has held numerous leadership positions in his troop and is a member of the Order of the Arrow, BSA’s honor society. He served as Counselor in Training at Resica Scout Camp and is a lifeguard. For his Eagle Scout Project, Matthew, and other Scouts, spent several months
building 14 Stations of the Cross and a bench for his parish. His project was completed just in time for St. John’s Catholic Church’s 50th anniversary. Matthew plans to attend Haverford College.

To be eligible to apply for the Emmett J. Doerr Memorial Scout Scholarship, the Scout must be Catholic, earned the Ad Altare Dei and/ or Pope Pius XII Awards, and received either the Eagle Scout, Summit, or Quartermaster Award. A complete list of award recipients, eligibility requirements and applications can be found online at http://nccs-bsa.org/index.php/college-scholarship. Emmett J. Doerr Memorial Scholarship recipients have been chosen because they are committed to making a difference for good in the world through service and leadership. These young people, like Matthew Ruiz, are certain to enrich our future.