

Trinity Team Invited To Germany

By [BOB BECKSTEAD](#)

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MASSENA - Fresh off winning the Champion Award in the fifth annual FIRST Lego League Robotics tournament at Clarkson University, members of Trinity Catholic School's team are in line for a shot at another championship.

But they'll have to head to Europe to claim it.

Flanked by team members during the school's Monday morning prayer service, coach Ed Reyes told Trinity faculty and students that the team had been invited to compete in the World Tournament, which will be held in June in Germany.

"We're eligible to go to the World Championship in Germany. In other words, we've been invited. Imagine a school of about 220 kids in Northern New York, and we make it that far," said Mr. Reyes, who coaches the team with Heather Doe.

One of the bigger obstacles they'll face is finding the funding in the next few months, he said.

Mr. Reyes estimated that, with transportation, lodging and food, it would cost between \$25,000 and \$30,000 for the 10 students, two coaches and at least two chaperones.

"Who knows where we go from here. We may go forward, we may not. I have some legwork to do. We have a little over five months to get ready for the next competition if we're going," he said.

Competing against 17 other schools, Trinity's team - Jacob Brothers, Grace Furnace, Hayden Doe, Megan Garcia, Ruben Boyea, Erin McCarthy, Eric Miller, Samantha O'Keefe, Cooper Regan and Hannah Laneville - won the Champion Award at Clarkson for best overall performance in the robot game, the project and the teamwork demonstration during the Clarkson competition.

This year's theme, "Food Factor," required teams of 9 to 14 year olds to research a food safety issue, present their solution in a creative manner and program their robots to accomplish a series of challenges.

Trinity's students devised an invention called Bacteria Be Gone, which uses ultraviolet light to make sure bacteria is wiped out before food is prepared and eaten.

"It was a very unexpected honor that we were given," Ms. Doe said.

Mr. Reyes said a number of factors went into Trinity's win, including the enthusiasm of the students and dedication, "the thrill that most players have that you see in sports today."

And, if they go to Germany, he said he expects the students will exhibit the same traits and come home as winners.

"It is a very possible thing for the children to be able to go to Germany to compete and be up near the top of other competitors," Mr. Reyes said.

Principal Joan M. Rufa said the coaches also had to be commended for their efforts with the team.

"A team is as good as its leadership, and this team had wonderful, wonderful leadership, absolutely outstanding leadership. Our team could not be where they are without Mr. Reyes and Mrs. Doe," she said, noting neither coach received a stipend or bonus for their volunteer work.

If the team raises the funds for the trip to Germany, Mr. Reyes said they'll be gone from June 5-10. The tournament runs from June 6-9.

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BECKSTEAD PHOTO

Trinity Catholic School's Robotics team has been invited to participate in the World Championships in Germany in June. Coach Ed Reyes made the announcement Monday while flanked by members of the team - coach Heather Doe and students Jacob Brothers, Grace Furnace, Hayden Doe, Megan Garcia, Ruben Boyea, Erin McCarthy, Eric Miller, Samantha O'Keefe, Cooper Regan and Hannah Laneuville.