

# VISION



NEWSLETTER OF THE OFFICE OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

AUGUST 1, 2008



## SUPERINTENDENT' S MESSAGE

The Office of Catholic Schools gives our monthly newsletter a new format and name. After four years, it is time to create a name for our monthly publication, and so we have named the newsletter **VISION**.

During these challenging economic times and when secularism seems to be the practice of the modern culture, we can easily lose sight of our vision for the ministry of Catholic school education. *Vision* will keep you focused, through electronic means, so that you have the appropriate information on the direction that we must take to make our vision truly become a living reality.

The proverbial quote echoes the truth, “without a vision, the people perish.” But the opposite can also be true: with a vision, the people prosper. For us to prosper, we must imagine, grow, stretch, learn, and work beyond our present capabilities. We must be a people dependent on God’s magnificent graces!

As we begin to plan the new school year, please be mindful of our vision for Catholic schools. *A vision that Catholic schools educate diverse student bodies to form Catholic, person centered learning communities; provide quality teaching through traditional and innovative educational programs infused with Catholic social teachings; involve students to serve and support parish life and the local civic communities; graduate students who are critical thinkers, productive moral citizens, and spiritual leaders; and recognize and appreciate parents as the primary educators of their children.*

### IN THIS EDITION

Superintendent’s  
Message

[Announcements](#)

[Catholic Identity](#)

[Administration](#)

[Curriculum](#)

[Advancement](#)

[Finances](#)

[Due Dates](#)

[Calendar of Events](#)

Office of Catholic  
Schools Website

[www.adh-ocs.org](http://www.adh-ocs.org)

Editor  
Gayle Keene  
[gkeene@adh-ocs.org](mailto:gkeene@adh-ocs.org)

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Highlighting our vision that we are Church, we go forth in prayerful gratitude to carry out the mission that Jesus, the greatest of teachers, entrusted to his disciples.*

Archbishop Henry J. Mansell recently appointed the following clergy as pastors with schools, **Rev. Ronald P. May**, St Dominic, Southington, **Fr Brian A. Shaw**, Saint Ann, Milford (Devon), **Rev. Dariusz Gosciniak** Holy Cross, New Britain (Pope Paul II School, New Britain), **Rev. John Melnick**, St Bernard, Enfield. In addition, Archbishop Mansell appointed **Rev. Jeffrey V. Romans** as Temporary Administrator, Saint Mary and Saint Hedwig, Naugatuck (Union City) until mid-August. Rev. Jeffrey V. Romans will then be appointed Assistant Chancellor/Secretary to the Archbishop. We are grateful to these priests in accepting an appointment in a parish with a school.

Congratulations to **Sister M. Catarina Tang**, a teacher at Assumption School, Manchester, who will make her Religious Profession on Sunday, August 10, 2008, to the Sisters of Charity of Our Lady Mother of the Church.

The Office of Catholic Schools welcomes **Sr. Kathleen Fitz Simons, CND**, who now begins her appointment as Assistant Superintendent of Catholic Schools. Sr. Kathleen Fitz Simons may be contacted at [kfitzsimons@adh-ocs.org](mailto:kfitzsimons@adh-ocs.org). Administrators will have a chance to meet and greet her at the upcoming Convocation.

Congratulations to **John Salatto** who has been appointed principal at St. Hedwig School, Naugatuck (Union City). Mr. Salatto has served previously in the Archdiocese as principal of St. Stanislaus School, Meriden.

Congratulations to **Henry Schnakenberg**, Principal at St Francis School, Waterbury, whose band performed for the University AIDS Awareness Night at the Queen's Hall in London, England this summer.

**Msgr. Thomas Toale**, Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia for the **Archdiocese of Dubuque**, was one of the retreat facilitators at the 2006 Administrators' Convocation. He has informed us of the devastation over the past months in Iowa caused from natural disasters. He has asked for prayers for the people of Iowa.

## **CATHOLIC IDENTITY**

*Honoring the vision that Catholic Identity is the hallmark of our schools, and our awesome obligation is to ensure that those entrusted to us understand the Gospel message.*

**Pauline Jubilee, June 2008 to June 2009:** We are pleased to recommend resources as you prepare to celebrate within your school community the bimillennium of Saint Paul's birth. The Office of Religious Education has developed a link to celebrate the year of St. Paul with many wonderful resources. You may access it at [www.orehartford.org/paul](http://www.orehartford.org/paul). The Archdiocese of Dubuque has created a website listing many age appropriate resources for the Pauline Jubilee year at <http://www.arch.pvt.k12.ia.us/YearofStPaul/index.html>.

**Catholic Schools Celebrate Service** is the theme that will be celebrated during Catholic schools month. (*Please note that in the Archdiocese of Hartford we celebrate the month of January as Catholic Schools' Month rather than Catholic Schools Week*). This theme recognizes that putting faith into action is not optional for Catholics, but is fundamental to our faith. The recent gift from the participating Catholic schools nationwide of two million community service hours in honor of Pope Benedict's birthday is evidence of our faith's strong tradition of engaging in the world to help others and to build the Kingdom of God.

In addition to the 2009 theme, *Catholic Schools Celebrate Service*, the National Marketing Campaign for Catholic Schools has adopted an ongoing, year-round theme entitled *Catholic Schools: The Good News in Education*. You will see this message on ads, public service announcements, and posters in the catalog. To order, visit [www.catholicschoolsweek.org](http://www.catholicschoolsweek.org) or call 1-800-269-7732 anytime.

**Back-to-School Prayer Service and Bookmark:** For the third year, the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) will offer a prayer service and bookmark to educators to mark the start of the school year. This free resource will be available in late-July from the NCEA website. Look for it in the *Back-to-School Press Kit*.

The Press Kit is a compilation of press releases, a fun page, and other materials for you to use in school newsletters, church bulletins, and on websites. Look for a link to the *Back-to-School Press Kit* on the front page of the NCEA website at [www.ncea.org](http://www.ncea.org).

### **ADMINISTRATION**

*Recognizing our vision that we build community, serve others, and bridge the crossroads of faith and knowledge for our students.*

**Enrollment Trends:** Between the 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 school year, the Connecticut public school enrollment dropped by 3,886 in grades 1 to 12, approximately .7 percent. Officials at the Connecticut State Data Centers believe the drop marks the beginning of a long-term decline in the school-age population from a peak of about 523,000 around 2004 to an estimated 432,300 students in 2020 – about 17 percent. From 2006 to 2007, the state's cities and bigger towns lost the most students, with Bridgeport, New Haven, West Haven, East Hartford, and New Britain leading the list. (*The Hartford Courant*, Tuesday, July 8, 2008)

**Administrators 4th Annual Convocation, *Come to the Water*:** All presidents and principals are to be present for the opening prayer and special surprises beginning at 9:30 a.m. on August 14. This year, author and nationally recognized speaker, Br. William Campbell of the NCEA, will be the retreat facilitator.

There is an opportunity for administrators and/or their spouses to sing at the Convocation Mass on August 14, 2008. Please contact either Larry Duffany of the Office of Catholic Schools, or Christian Cashman, Principal of East Catholic High School, to volunteer or to

get more information. You may reach Larry at 860.242.4362, ext. 136, [lduffany@adhs-ocs.org](mailto:lduffany@adhs-ocs.org), and Christian at (860) 649-5336, ext. 203, [cashmanc@echhs.com](mailto:cashmanc@echhs.com).

## **CURRICULUM**

*Providing vision of education for a lifetime where faith and knowledge intertwine to form person-centered learning communities.*

**Connecticut Invention Convention (CIC) Presents a Special Teacher Training Workshop on Inventing** entitled, *How to Teach Inventing to Students – A Fun Way to Meet State and National Science Inquiry Standards*. In response to many requests, CIC will help you begin a new program and refine your skills to begin invention instruction. Learn the basic steps from CIC Curriculum Specialists, and you will:

- Receive resources and practical suggestions to conduct a proven learning activity for grades K – 8.
- Link "inventing" directly with state & national standards for science inquiry.
- Learn how invention addresses higher order thinking skills, learning styles, and multiple intelligences.
- Take home a new, jam-packed CIC curriculum and DVD.
- Receive a step-by-step guide to conducting an invention convention, and more!

The fee is \$35 (attend with an additional colleague for \$40), and includes a printed curriculum, a DVD, and lunch. To register, or for more information, visit [www.ctinventionconvention.org](http://www.ctinventionconvention.org). When and Where: August 20 or September 20, at the CT Center for Advanced Technology, Rentschler Field, 409 Silver Lane, East Hartford, from 9:30 to 3:00 p.m.

## **ADVANCEMENT**

*Building our vision of understanding that Catholic schools must be supported by expanding our efforts in development, marketing, and support from business and civic communities.*

### **HOPES NOTES:**

- Elementary principals should be on the lookout for the HOPES Dinner invitation, which will be mailed in early August. Enclosed in this mailing will be the Volunteer of the Year Nomination Form (due back by September 12) and the Dinner Reservation Form (due back September 15).
- The HOPES Collection letters will be mailed to all pastors at the end of August.
- The HOPES Poster will also be mailed to all pastors. In addition, two copies of the poster will be placed in each Convocation packet, and we ask all principals and presidents (elementary and secondary) to display the poster prominently in the school.

**Annual Advancement Plans:** Elementary principals are reminded that the 2008 – 2009 Advancement Plans are now due. Please remember that the allocation of Archdiocesan funds may require the submission of these plans.

**Marketing Campaign:** Phase II of the Marketing Campaign will launch in mid-August and run through mid-October. Once again, highway and local billboards, as well as radio spots will be utilized. The HigherStandardsNow.com website will be enhanced to attract more visitors, and the online “Paid Search” capability will be expanded. Please remember to track your monthly inquiries and their sources (via the “Monthly Inquiry and Source Report”), then capture that information for submission to OCS (via the Periodic Inquiry and Source Report”). Both forms were emailed to school administrators in late July and are available on the Office of Catholic Schools website ([www.adh-ocs.org](http://www.adh-ocs.org)).

**School Board Orientation/Training:** Principals and presidents who have new school board members or entire boards in need of in-servicing will be happy to learn that two regional School Board Orientation/Training Workshops will be offered this fall to accommodate that need. These workshops, which will now be presented annually, will occur on the following dates:

- Thursday, October 30, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m., Archdiocesan Center at St. Thomas Seminary, Bloomfield
- Monday, November 3, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m., St. Bridget School, Cheshire

## **FINANCES**

*Establishing a **vision** of responsibility to continue to strive toward the goal of making Catholic elementary and secondary schools available, accessible, and affordable to all parents and their children.*

**Close 2007/2008 School Year Using the Accrual Accounting Method:** It is expected that the accrual accounting method (vs. the cash basis method) will be used to close the 2007/2008 school year. If your business manager did not attend a workshop, please download the PowerPoint presentation that was presented at the workshop from the Office of Catholic Schools’ website. The PowerPoint presentation describes the step-by-step process to close your accounting records properly for June 30, 2008 using QuickBooks via the accrual method of accounting. *It will be difficult to comply with this accounting change without referencing the step-by-step presentation.*

### **Future Workshops Planned:**

- 1. Preparing the Budget:** This workshop is primarily for elementary school **principals**, and will promote an understanding of the details behind preparing the elementary school budget. Principals are encouraged to attend with the school’s business manager.
- 2. Nuances of QuickBooks:** This workshop is primarily for **business managers**, and will address many of the questions and issues related to QuickBooks transactions, which were raised at the workshops held earlier this spring entitled,



29  
30

**Archdiocesan School Board Meeting**, Office of Catholic Schools, 6:30 p.m.  
**Secondary Administrators Meeting**, Office of Catholic Schools, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**The mission of the Office of Catholic Schools is to further the advancement of Catholic education for students in the Archdiocese of Hartford by providing service, support, guidance, and direction to pastors, presidents, principals, teachers, boards, parents, and other stakeholders of Catholic schools.**

*God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.*

-Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr