

# VISION



NEWSLETTER OF THE OFFICE OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS  
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## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

April 1, 2010



### THOUGHT OF THE MONTH!

Sometimes, it is said that in order to keep everyone comfortable, one should never bring up politics or religion. Pope Benedict XVI reminds us, however, of our obligation to tirelessly "invite" the faithful to work for just political and economic systems that uphold, instead of oppress, those in poverty.

-Education for Justice

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### Our Spectacular Youth

"You are the future of the world, you are the hope of the Church, you are my hope." These words are taken from Pope John Paul II at the World Youth Day Inauguration Ceremonies on October 22, 1978. Thirty-two years later, this same message echoes throughout our Church recognizing the tremendous gift of hope our youth offers to our Church and the greater community.

One of the most daunting tasks facing educators today is learning how to work with students from a wide range of ethical, social, and cultural backgrounds. Easter reminds us that "God, in Christ, redeems not only the individual person, but also the social relations existing between humans. Church communities, brought together by the message of Jesus Christ and gathered in the Holy Spirit round the Risen Christ, offer themselves as places of communion, witness and mission, and as catalysts for the redemption and transformation of social relationships" (Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 2004).

The Catholic Church of Hartford offers an opportunity for our students to experience these types of relationships at the Catholic Youth Spectacular. This annual event gathers diverse groups of youth to be united with the Church. The theme for the fall Catholic Youth Spectacular is *Empowered by the Spirit: Ordinary People, Extraordinary Lives*. This event will be held on September 12, 2010, at the Archdiocesan Center at St Thomas Seminary with Jesse Manibusan as the featured guest. Mr. Manibusan is a Catholic lay evangelist who uses music, comedy, and stories to connect with people.

Archbishop Henry J. Mansell has been instrumental in ensuring that the spirit of our youth continues to flourish throughout the Archdiocese of Hartford. In its fifth year, we are hoping to exceed in number the 1600 youth who attended the Catholic Youth Spectacular last year. I encourage **ALL** Catholic schools to participate in this spectacular event. Those students in grades seven and above who are not connected with a Catholic parish (including non-Catholic students) should register through the school.

Administrators, teachers, and campus ministers may view promotional items and a video featuring Jesse Manibusan's songs and pictures from last year's event by visiting [www.youthspectacular.net](http://www.youthspectacular.net). Registration forms may be accessed from this site as well. For more information, please contact Shawnee Baldwin at the Office of Religious Education, 860.243.9465 ext. 20, or [sbaldwin@adh-ore.org](mailto:sbaldwin@adh-ore.org).

As the Lenten season draws to a close, we are called to become Resurrection people; we are communities defined by great hope - hope not only for ourselves, but also for the transformation of the world. **May you be blessed abundantly this Easter season.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### *CONGRATULATIONS TO:*

**Carlos Aedo**, Coordinator of Catechesis for Hispanics at the Office of Religious Education, and his wife, Laura Marcucio, Chair of the Religion Department and a Spanish teacher at East Catholic High School, Manchester, welcomed their second daughter, Francesca, on Sunday, March 21.

**Pamela Belury**, the principal at St. Francis Xavier School, Waterbury, for the commendation received by Jessica Eaton, a prospective parent of a kindergartner when touring the school for her child's placement this Fall. Mrs. Eaton remarks were featured in the Republican American on Monday, March 8, which praised the multi-age classrooms, the emphasis on personal accountability of the students, including kindergartners, and the before and after school care program.

**Justin Dufresne**, a senior at East Catholic High School, who was named a finalist in the 2010 National Merit Scholarship competition. Justin is one of only 15,000 students nationwide to be selected for this honor. Justin's aunt is Karen Tyler at the Office of Catholic Schools.

the administrator and faculty of **St. Mary School, Newington**, for sponsoring a Preschool Exposition that allowed parents to learn more about various early education programs offered by the community. Special guests and mascots, Sonar of the Hartford Wolf Pack and Rocky of the New Britain Rock Cats, kept the toddlers happy while parents visited with the exhibitors contributing to the event. The events of the day were featured in the Hartford Courant.

the **St. Paul Catholic High School Girls Basketball Team**, who won the Class S Women's Basketball State Championship, over Portland 39-37 at the Mohegan Sun Arena! This news article was featured in the Bristol Press, Hartford Courant, Waterbury Republican, and Channel 3, WFSB.

### *PLEASE PRAY FOR:*

the recovery of **Florence Cunningham**, the mother of Jacqueline Jennings, Principal of Sacred Heart High School, Waterbury, who is hospitalized.

the recovery of **Dennis Devanney**, the husband of Patricia Devanney, Principal of St. Anthony School, Winsted, who is hospitalized and seriously ill.

the repose of the soul of **Mrs. Louise Biondi**, the grandmother of Saint Lawrence students' Joseph Biondi, grade 7, and Andrew Biondi, grade 5; the mother of Mr. Joseph Biondi, webmaster and member of St. Lawrence School Board; and the mother-in-law of Maria Biondi, an active member of the St. Lawrence Home & School Association. May the soul of Louise Biondi rest in peace!

the repose of the soul of **Barbara Garneau**, the sister of Judith Garneau, who is a teacher at St. Mary Magdalen School, Oakville. She is survived by her parents and six siblings. May Barbara Garneau rest in peace!

*THANK YOU!*

**The Foundation for the Advancement of Catholic Schools** would like to thank all who participated in the success of the Archbishop's Tenth Annual Saint Patrick's Day Breakfast. Your support is important to our students and the Foundation.

**The American Cancer Society and the Relay for Life of Greater Waterbury Committee** have expressed their gratitude to Catholic school teachers and administrators for their participation in last's years Relay for Life. Thanks to a display of overwhelming enthusiasm, a total of \$235,000 was raised in the fight against cancer. This year the annual Relay for Life of Greater Waterbury will be held on Saturday, June 5 and Sunday, June 6.

## CATHOLIC IDENTITY

The Prayer of the Month, written by **Kerryan Ashley**, a seventh grade student at St. Francis Xavier School, Waterbury, will be featured on the Office of Catholic Schools' website for April.

**Appreciation Luncheon for our priests:** On April 27, 2010 the Archdiocesan School Board will host a luncheon for the priests of the Archdiocese of Hartford at the Aqua Turf Club in celebration of the "Year for Priests." Principals are asked to encourage the pastors and priests associated with the parish school to attend as a way of expressing their gratitude. It is fitting to do so during this week as it coincides with the National Catholic Education Association's (NCEA) Pastor Appreciation Sunday, also known as Good Shepherd Sunday.

**New University of Dayton Course:** The course, *Survey of Catholic Social Teaching*, is now available and has been posted to Cycle 3 on the Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation website.

## ADMINISTRATION

### **Administrative Openings:**

#### ***For the 2010-2011 School Year:***

Blessed Sacrament School, Waterbury  
St. Mary Magdalen School, Oakville

**Scholarships:** The Foundation for the Advancement of Catholic Schools has announced that completed application forms are due on April 23, 2010 for the following scholarships:

Hartford Endowed Scholarships (Elementary)  
Most Reverend Daniel A. Cronin Scholarships (Elementary)  
Dyonia Scholarships (Elementary)  
Reverend John P. Cook Scholarships (Secondary)

Please return all thoroughly completed applications to Cynthia Basil Howard, The Foundation for the Advancement of Catholic Schools, 467 Bloomfield Ave. Bloomfield, CT 06002.

**Certification:** Principals and teachers are reminded that many certification forms require the signature of the Superintendent. Such forms shall be completed by the employee and submitted to the principal, who will verify the length and level of service by recording that information on the form and initialing it. The principal

will forward any forms requiring the Superintendent's signature to Larry Duffany at the Office of Catholic Schools at least two to three weeks before they are due at the Department of Education. If forms are to be returned to the employee, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

**Calendar Change Alert:** Please note that the date of the New Principal Meeting has been changed from Thursday, April 22, 2010 to **Thursday, April 29, 2010**. The meeting will be held at the Office of Catholic Schools from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**Summer Programs:**

**University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana:** This summer, hundreds of Catholic school professionals, parents, and advocates will gather at the University of Notre Dame for enrichment in Catholic education. To learn more details about these programs, please visit <http://acefellowship.nd.edu>, or [ace.fellowship@nd.edu](mailto:ace.fellowship@nd.edu). The names of some programs follow:

**Catholic School Board Member Formation Program, June 16-20:** Catholic schools are the responsibility of the entire Catholic community, and membership on a school board is an important vehicle for service. This seminar, jointly presented by the Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) and Notre Dame's Mendoza College of Business, is designed for **school board members** who want to enhance their ability to effectively support Catholic schools at the board level.

**Advocates for Parental Choice Symposium, June 25-30:** The Catholic Bishops of the United States encourage the Catholic community "to advocate for parental school choice, and personal and corporate tax credits, which will help parents to fulfill their responsibility in educating their children." This Symposium is the nation's premier seminar for **future leaders of the Parental Choice movement**, and is offered at no cost to accepted applicants.

**ACE Academy for School Leaders, July 5-9:** Designed for Catholic school principals, this four-day seminar will **prepare school leaders to grow as mission-driven academic leaders**. Through engaging discussions with expert faculty, participants will create and develop a leadership action plan to implement for their school. Following the Academy, ACE staff members will continue to work with participants as plans are executed.

**ACE Summer Forum, July 9-11:** With only 3% of Latino children in the United States enrolled in Catholic schools, the University of Notre Dame has launched the Catholic School Advantage Campaign, which aims to enroll one million Latino children in Catholic schools by 2020. This year's ACE Summer Forum will focus on **practical strategies for Catholic schools to increase access for Latino children and families**.

**Working Papers (Statement of Age) Workshop:** A free workshop, sponsored by the CT Departments of Labor, Education, Public Health, and the Connecticut Young Worker Safety Team, will be held on Tuesday, May 4 or Wednesday, May 5, 2010, at the Connecticut Department of Labor, 200 Folly Brook Boulevard, Wethersfield, CT, 8:30 a.m. CEU's are available. Please contact Michelle Morris at 860.263.6791 or Marian Storch at 860.509.7791, [marian.storch@ct.gov](mailto:marian.storch@ct.gov).

**South Catholic High School Reunion, Save the Date, Saturday, May 22, 2010:** All alumni, faculty, staff, and friends from all classes of South Catholic High School are invited to attend the school's first annual reunion on Saturday, May 22, 2010, at Northwest Catholic High School, West Hartford. All priests who have been associated with South Catholic High School are invited to attend and concelebrate Mass at 4:00 p.m. Registration begins at 3:00 p.m. and a reception follows Mass from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. For more information please contact Maura Smith-Cantwell at [southcatholicreunion@gmail.com](mailto:southcatholicreunion@gmail.com). Please spread the word!

## CURRICULUM

**Second Annual Archdiocesan Technology Award:** The Office of Catholic Schools is pleased to sponsor the Archdiocesan Technology Award again this year. A school may submit an unlimited number of lesson plans that illustrate optimal integration of technology in content areas. Contest details can be found on the Office of Catholic Schools' website, under Administrators' Login, Curriculum.

## ADVANCEMENT

**Online Parent Satisfaction Survey:** This is a final reminder for school administrators to encourage their current parents to complete the Parent Satisfaction Survey now posted on the Office of Catholic Schools' website. The survey will be posted until the end of April and in May each principal will receive a report detailing their school's responses. Unfortunately, some schools have very few or no respondents at this point, meaning that they will not benefit from the important information being collected. A link from each school's website to the survey on the Office of Catholic Schools' homepage would facilitate the process. The survey is very user friendly and quick to complete. Any questions can be directed to Anne Clubb at the Office of Catholic Schools.

**Spring Workshop on Enrollment Management:** All administrators are encouraged to attend the Spring Workshop on **Tuesday, May 4, 2010**, which will deal with a topic of great importance to every school: Enrollment Management. The process of moving students from inquiry to graduation will be presented by Shana Ruffner Maguire, Director of Admissions at Padua Academy in Wilmington, DE and a partner of Partners in Mission, a consulting firm focused exclusively on Catholic advancement. Presidents, principals, board members, advancement staff/volunteers, and parent ambassadors are all invited to hear Shana speak about the following topics: establishing a brand identity; attracting your audience via general and target marketing; building relationships; employing the best recruiting strategies; knowing the proper roles of the president, principal and parent ambassador in recruitment; bringing students to application, acceptance and enrollment; and retaining current students. Invitations to the workshop will be sent shortly and RSVP's are requested by April 26 via email to [dnewell@adh-ocs.org](mailto:dnewell@adh-ocs.org), U.S. mail, or fax (860) 242-8683.

**Improving Your Enrollment Efforts:** In the January issue of *Catholic School Enrollment Talk*, published by the Institute of School and Parish Development, John Cooper presents some great recommendations regarding how to sharpen enrollment strategies:

- ✓ Improve the content, ease of navigation, and interactivity of the school website
- ✓ Use financial aid as much as possible to leverage increased enrollment
- ✓ Ensure that parental/student satisfaction is at a high level so it will propel growth
- ✓ Consider the proper timing, message, and medium in all your communications
- ✓ Set tangible, quantifiable retention goals and strategies
- ✓ Repeat your communications often to allow the message to sink in
- ✓ Mount a team effort – the principal cannot do it all
- ✓ Tell a compelling story by using those who are most believable: students, parents, faculty, alumni
- ✓ Complete enrollment reports to monitor progress on a monthly basis

**HOPES Grants:** Distribution decisions for the HOPES Grants (to be administered during the 2010 – 2011 school year) will take place in late April 2010. Those elementary principals who have submitted HOPES Grant applications can expect to hear the results of those decisions by mid-May. Any questions can be directed to Anne Clubb.

**ACAAP Connecticut Meeting:** The Association of Catholic Admissions and Advancement Professionals is hosting a Connecticut area meeting on **Wednesday, May 12, 2010**, from 9:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at Sacred

Heart Academy, Hamden. The topic of the meeting will be "Catholic School Admissions and Advancement in a Difficult Economy" and school administrators, admissions and advancement staff, volunteers, and school board members are welcome to attend. The cost is \$10 (made payable to ACAAP). This is a great opportunity for our Catholic school admissions and advancement professionals to come together to network and share best practices. Information re: ACAAP can be found at [www.acaap.net](http://www.acaap.net).

## FINANCE

### **2010-2011 Projected Retention and Enrollment Report for Elementary and Secondary Schools:**

This report can be found on the Office of Catholic Schools' website, under Administrators' Login, Secure Downloads, Finances. This report is **required** to be completed and emailed to Ken Przysiecki, CPA, Director of School Finances, via his assistant, Jim Giangreco, at [jlgiangreco@adh-ocs.org](mailto:jlgiangreco@adh-ocs.org) on the following dates: March 1, 2010, **April 1, 2010**, May 1, 2010, June 1, 2010, July 1, 2010, August 1, 2010, and Opening Day 2010 to assess enrollment trends within the Archdiocese.

**Pre-K and Aftercare Program Tax Credit:** As a tax/marketing tool for your Pre-K and aftercare programs, please note that the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) allows parents' a tax credit for the cost of these programs. Information regarding the tax credit can be found at the IRS website at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov), by searching "IRS Publication 503" or parents can call the IRS tax assistance department at 877.829.5500.

## DUE DATES

### **NOW DUE**

**2010-2011 Elementary Preliminary Budget** due to Ken Przysiecki at [kprzysiecki@adh-ocs.org](mailto:kprzysiecki@adh-ocs.org)

**Parish School Principal Letter of Intent** due to designated Assistant Superintendent

**OCS Multiplication Challenge Post-Assessments** due to Valerie Mara at [vmara@adh-ocs.org](mailto:vmara@adh-ocs.org)

### **APRIL**

- 1** **2010 Administrator/Teacher Archdiocesan Grant applications** due to Dale R. Hoyt via fax (860) 242-8683 or mail
- 1** **School Year 2010-2011 Calendar Worksheet** due to Assistant Superintendent
- 1** **2010-2011 Projected Retention and Enrollment Report** due to Ken Przysiecki via [jlgiangreco@adh-ocs.org](mailto:jlgiangreco@adh-ocs.org)
- 23** **2010-2011 Foundation for the Advancement of Catholic Schools' Scholarships**, completed applications due Cindy Howard via U.S. mail
- 26** **RSVP to Spring Workshop** due to Anne Clubb via [dnewell@adh-ocs.org](mailto:dnewell@adh-ocs.org), U.S. mail, or fax, 860.242.8683

## EVENT DATES

### **APRIL**

- 2** **Good Friday – Day of Fasting and Abstinence** (Office of Catholic Schools Closed)
- 5** **Easter Monday** (Holiday – Office of Catholic Schools Closed)
- 6 – 8** **NCEA (National Catholic Educational Association) Annual Convention**, Minneapolis, MN
- 7 – 8** **Connecticut Private School Professional Development Summit**, Sacred Heart University, Fairfield
- 11** **Knights of Columbus Spelling Bee**, Archdiocesan Center at St. Thomas Seminary, 1:00 p.m.
- 21** **Administrative Assistants' Appreciation Day**
- 25** **NCEA Pastor Appreciation Day**

- 27** **Priest Appreciation Luncheon** sponsored by the Archdiocesan School Board, Aqua Turf, Plantsville, 12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m.
- 28** **PACE (Principals' Advisory Council for Elementary)** schools, Office of Catholic Schools, 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., followed by lunch
- 29** **New Principal Meeting Date Change**, Office of Catholic Schools, 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. *(Note: Revised from Thursday, April 22)*

**MAY**

- 4** **Spring Workshop** on Enrollment Management, 4:00 – 6:30 p.m., Archdiocesan Center at St. Thomas Seminary, dining hall
- 12** **ACAAP Connecticut Meeting**, Sacred Heart Academy, Hamden, 9:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- 13** **Foundation for the Advancement of Catholic Schools**, Board of Trustees Meeting, Chancery, 4:00 p.m.
- 17** **Archdiocesan School Board Meeting**, Office of Catholic Schools, 6:30 p.m.
- 20** **Administrators' Meeting and Appreciation Dinner**, Red Lounge and Main Dining Room, 11:30 a.m. and 6:15 p.m., respectively



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