

VISION



NEWSLETTER OF THE OFFICE OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

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SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

January 6, 2010



THOUGHT OF THE MONTH!

Lord Jesus Christ,
born in Bethlehem,
Come to us!

Enter within me, within my
soul. Transform me.
Renew me. Change me.

Pope Benedict XVI, 2009
Christmas Message

VISION EDITOR
Gayle Keene
gkeene@adh-ocs.org

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS MONTH **Our Students – The Greatest Investment**

On the threshold of the second decade, of the twenty-first century, we celebrate our Catholic schools. We believe that our Catholic schools are the Church's most effective means of teaching our faith to the younger generations. Catholic school education is an investment in the future of the Church and our students. In cooperation with the wider community, everything must be done to assure that Catholic schools are accessible to people of all social and economic strata. "No child should be denied his or her right to an education in faith, which in turn nurtures the soul of a nation." (Pope Benedict XVI)

Catholic schools flourish because of the people who have made a faith-filled investment in them, and work unceasingly to make them innovative, viable, and robust institutions, committed to our vision and mission. It is in this context that the "model of faithful people" shapes the Catholic school culture. During the 2009-2010 school year, we recognize and congratulate several of these faithful people for their distinguished service to the ministry of Catholic school education: *Monsignor John P. Conte, Rev. Lawrence S. Symolon, and Mary Macunas.*

We "educate diverse student bodies to form Catholic, person-centered learning communities; provide quality teaching through traditional and innovative 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 [guardians] as the primary educators of the children." (Common Threads)

As we begin Catholic schools month, let me express appreciation for all those who provide time, talent, and treasure to our greatest investment – the children. May your new year be filled with many joyful blessings.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Rev. Msgr. John P. Conte and Rev. Lawrence S. Symolon, who were named 2009-2010 Distinguished Elementary School Pastors of Our Lady of Mercy School, Madison. A Mass will be celebrated on January 10, 2010 at St. George Church, Guilford, with special recognition given to them by Superintendent Dale R. Hoyt.

Mrs. Mary Macunas, who was named 2009-2010 Distinguished Elementary School Principal. A Mass will be celebrated on January 31, 2010 at St. Rose Church, East Hartford, with special recognition given to her by Superintendent Dale R. Hoyt.

St. Gabriel School, Windsor, which was featured recently on Channel 30, WVIT news. The school participated in an adopt-a-family service effort during the Christmas season, buying gifts for families associated with St. Francis Hospital, Hartford.

Sang Jin Lee of South Korea, who was recognized in a recent news article in the *New Haven Register* for his educational, athletic, and musical accomplishments at Notre Dame High School, West Haven, which contributed to his successful assimilation to this country.

Robert P. Cyr, Chair of the Archdiocesan School Board, who was highlighted on the front page of the *Record-Journal* on December 7, 2009.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

the speedy recovery of **Adelle Gadzinski**, mother-in-law of James Torgerson. Mr. Torgerson is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Foundation for the Advancement of Catholic Schools.

CATHOLIC IDENTITY

The Prayer of the Month, written by **Kassandra Menelas**, a seventh grade student at St. Francis/St. Rose School, New Haven, will be featured on the Office of Catholic Schools' website for January.

Adult Faith Formation: On December 10, 2009, the Office of Catholic Schools sent each principal the latest information on the Adult Faith Formation Program including a listing of teachers and courses completed in this program. Please note that any elementary teacher with a year of hire of 2005 will reach the completion deadline for the program in June 2010. Elementary teachers with dates of hire before 2005 are considered beyond deadline. Please contact Larry Duffany if you have any questions.

ADMINISTRATION

Discounted Broadway Tickets for the *Miracle Worker*: Academy Award® nominee Abigail Breslin (of Little Miss Sunshine) stars in Broadway's most inspiring drama, *The Miracle Worker*. The producers are offering discounted tickets to the Archdiocese for groups of 10 or more. Performance schedule begins February 12, Monday – Saturday at 8:00 p.m., Wednesday and Saturday at 2:00 p.m. Beginning on March 8, performances will be held Tuesday – Thursday at 7:00 p.m. and on Friday – Saturday at 8:00 p.m., Wednesday & Saturday at 2:00 p.m., and on Sunday at 3:00 p.m. This special offer results in savings of up to 60%. February 12 – March 21, 2010: Monday: Orchestra A-K: **\$59**, Student Best Available: **\$47**. Tuesday - Thursday: Orchestra A-K: **\$77**, Student Best Available: **\$47**. March 23 - August 1, 2010: Tuesday - Thursday, Orchestra A-K: **\$99**, Student Best Available: **\$47**. Contact Joe McGowan at joe@miracleworkeronbroadway.com to reserve tickets.

Set in the South during the 1880's, *The Miracle Worker* tells the deeply moving true story of the Medal of Freedom winner Helen Keller, who became blind and deaf as an infant, and the extraordinary teacher who taught her to communicate with the world, Annie Sullivan.

Connecticut Federation of Catholic School Parents (CFCSP): Administrators are requested to link the CFCSP website address to the school's website. The website includes information on legislative initiatives that impact our Catholic schools, and parents will find it very informative. The link is www.ctfcsp.org. Administrators and school liaisons are asked to reserve the following dates:

- ❖ **February 8 – February 12** – Catholic Schools' Civics Week
- ❖ **February 24** – Catholic Schools' Day at the State Capitol: Liaison training and a legislative reception follow in the Legislative Office Building from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. and 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., respectively.

Archbishop Mansell's 10th Annual St. Patrick's Day Breakfast: The Foundation for the Advancement of Catholic Schools will be hosting the *Archbishop's 10th Annual St. Patrick's Day Breakfast* on Tuesday, March 17, 2010 from 7:30 – 9:00 a.m. at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford. Proceeds from this event provide support for the Catholic schools of the Archdiocese of Hartford. This lively event has become a favorite way to celebrate St. Patrick's Day and support Catholic education at the same time. The Breakfast features great food and Irish themed entertainment by students from our Catholic schools.

We are proud to announce that Admiral William J. Fallon (Retired) is scheduled to be the speaker for the Breakfast. Admiral William J. Fallon retired from the U.S. Navy after a distinguished 40 year career of military and strategic leadership. He has led U.S. and Allied forces in eight separate commands and played a leadership role in military and diplomatic matters at the highest levels of the U.S. government. As head of U.S. Central Command, Admiral Fallon directed all U.S. military operations in the Middle East, Central Asia and Horn of Africa, focusing on combat efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

For information on sponsorship opportunities, advertising in the breakfast program, or to purchase/order tickets, please email Shirley Ziolkowski at szolkowski@facshartford.org or call 860.761.7499. You don't have to be Irish to join the fun! Let your friends and family know about the event, too.

Volunteer Census: Based on the recommendations of the previous audit and the request of the Office of Safe Environments, we have developed a form for schools to report their volunteer census to the Office of Catholic Schools together with the volunteers' safe environments information. The form has been emailed to all principals. Please complete and forward the form to Larry Duffany at lduffany@adh-ocs.org as soon as possible.

CURRICULUM

New Teacher Orientation Workshop, Part III: Please invite your newly hired teachers to join colleagues from the Dioceses of Bridgeport and Norwich on January 14 for Part III of the New Teacher Orientation Program. The event will be held at St. Bridget School, Cheshire, from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. There is no charge for this professional development opportunity, which will address the topics of assessment strategies and rubric development. The morning is devoted to professional development; the afternoon will be dedicated specifically to the teachers of the Archdiocese of Hartford to discuss any questions or concerns. Valerie Mara will co-present the morning session and will facilitate the conversations in the afternoon. Please RSVP by January 7 to Valerie Mara at vmara@adh-ocs.org.

Oral Language Assessment Resource: A great deal of research has been conducted in the field of oral language development as literacy acquisition is dependent on oral language abilities and skills. This year, primary grade teachers are specifically assessing and grading students' development of oral language skills based on the standards put forth in the Archdiocesan Language Arts Curriculum Standards. A PowerPoint presentation, "Teaching and Assessing Oral Language", has been created to assist teachers in developing oral language assessments and learning strategies. Please visit the Office of Catholic Schools' website, Curriculum Resources page, to browse this resource for your teachers.

Special Education Laws in Connecticut: Many administrators have requested revised information concerning special education referrals. The State of Connecticut has adapted a Response to Intervention (RTI) framework called Scientific Research Based Intervention (SRBI) as its model for diagnosing students with learning disabilities. This is a multi-tiered approach for providing services and interventions to struggling learners before referrals are made. SRBI emphasizes the vital role general education plays in the early intervention process and utilizes scientific and research-based instructional practices. For more information on Connecticut's framework and what this means to Archdiocesan elementary and high schools, visit the Office of Catholic Schools' website, Curriculum Resources page, to access the PowerPoint presentation, "ADH Response to Intervention".

ADVANCEMENT

High School Collection: The High School Collection which supports the secondary schools in the Archdiocese of Hartford will be collected in all parishes on the weekend of January 23/24, 2010. All elementary and secondary schools will receive two copies of the High School Collection poster. Please display them prominently in the schools for as long as possible prior to January 23/24.

Catholic Schools Month, Stories for the *Catholic Transcript* and Office of Radio and Television: Both the *Catholic Transcript* and the Office of Radio and TV are interested in any newsworthy activities happening at your school in conjunction with Catholic Schools Month. Story ideas can be submitted to Roberta Tuttle, Managing Editor of the *Catholic Transcript* at 860.286.2828, ext. 1 or rtuttle@catholictranscript.org, and to Kim Sanders, writer/reporter, Crossroads Magazine, Office of Radio and TV (ORTV), at 203.758.7367 or sandersk@ortv-hartford.org. Administrators may also submit story ideas to Anne Clubb, who will forward them to the Transcript and ORTV. All story suggestions must be submitted as early as possible, and no later than January 11.

Calendar Change Alert: Please note that the date of the Spring Advancement Workshop has been changed from Wednesday, May 5 to **Tuesday, May 4, 2010**. Shana Ruffner, Director of Admissions and Communications at Padua Academy, Wilmington, DE, will be presenting on "Enrollment Management".

Periodic Inquiry and Source Report Reminder: School administrators are asked to submit their Periodic Inquiry and Source Reports for the time span of October 2009 – January 2010 by February 8, 2010.

FINANCE

Preliminary Budget Due Dates: The high school preliminary budgets are due February 15, 2010. The elementary preliminary budget due date has been changed to March 1, 2010.

DUE DATES

NOW DUE

Non-Public School Report, Connecticut State Department of Education, ED159, due to Leslie Nelson via U.S. mail

School Volunteer Census due to Larry Duffany at lduffany@adh-ocs.org

JANUARY

7 **RSVP for New Teacher Orientation Workshop, Part III** to vmara@adh-ocs.org

11 **Catholic Schools Month** story ideas due to the *Catholic Transcript* at rtuttle@catholictranscript.org and Office of Radio and Television at sandersk@ortv-hartford.org

EVENT DATES

JANUARY

1—31 Catholic Schools Month, Archdiocese of Hartford

- 6 District 1 Meeting**, St. Mary Church, East Hartford, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
- 7 District 2 and 3 Meeting**, St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Center, West Hartford, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
- 11 Foundation for the Advancement of Catholic Schools**, Board of Trustees Meeting, Chancery, 4:00 p.m.
- 10 Distinguished Elementary School Pastor 2009-2010 Awards, Msgr. John P. Conte and Rev. Lawrence S. Symolon**, Our Lady of Mercy School, Madison, St. George Church, Guilford, 11:30 a.m. Mass
- 12 Waterbury Chief Administrator/Principal Vicariate Meeting**, Archdiocesan Center at St. Thomas Seminary, Room 1A, 1st floor, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. (Snow date January 19)
- 12 New Haven Chief Administrator/Principal Vicariate Meeting**, Archdiocesan Center at St. Thomas Seminary, Room 1A, 1st floor, 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. (Snow Date January 19)
- 12 Hartford Chief Administrator/Principal Vicariate Meeting**, Archdiocesan Center at St. Thomas Seminary, Room 1A, 1st floor, 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. (Snow date January 19)
- 13 Secondary Administrators' Meeting**, Office of Catholic Schools, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- 14 New Teacher Orientation Workshop, Part III**, St. Bridget School, Cheshire, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- 18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day** (Holiday – Office of Catholic Schools Closed)
- 19 Snow Date for Chief Administrator/Principal Vicariate Meetings**, Archdiocesan Center at St. Thomas Seminary, Room 1A, 1st floor, same time schedule
- 23, 24 Archdiocesan High School Collection**, all parishes in the Archdiocese
- 31 Distinguished Elementary School Principal 2009-2010 Award**, Mary Macunas, St. Rose Church, East Hartford, 10:45 Mass

FEBRUARY

- 8 – 12 Connecticut Federation of Catholic School Parents: Catholic Schools Civic Week**
- 11 New Principal Meeting**, Office of Catholics School, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
- 15 President's Day** (Holiday – Office of Catholic Schools Closed)
- 24 Catholic Schools Day**, State Capitol, Hartford, All Day
- 24 Liaison Training Sessions hosted by CT Federation of Catholic School Parents**, Legislative Office Building, Hartford, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.
- 24 Legislative Reception for Liaison, Administrators, and Friends of Catholic Schools**, Legislative Office Building, Hartford, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- 24 Archdiocesan School Board Executive Meeting**, Office of Catholic Schools, 5:00 p.m.
- 25 Principals' Advisory Council of Elementary (PACE) Schools Meeting**, Office of Catholic Schools, 10:00 a.m.



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