

The Good Word

From the Office of Catholic Education

Vol. X No. 11 SEPTEMBER, 2012

The Good Word from The Office of Catholic Education is published three times annually and shared with the following groups: Pastors/PLCs, Parish Administrators of Religious Education, Catholic School Administrators, Parish Youth Ministers, Education Commission/Board Presidents and Friends of Catholic Education. Your contribution of ideas for stories and your comments are welcome!

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If you would like to receive *The Good Word* by e-mail, please send the phrase "Good Word by e-mail" to Cindy Clark at cclark@archindy.org.



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CELEBRATING CATHOLIC SCHOOL VALUES DIFFERENTLY ~ OCTOBER 30, 2012 ~

The 17th Annual *Celebrating Catholic School Values: Scholarships and Career Achievement Awards* will be held at the Crowne Plaza Grand Hall of Union Station, Indianapolis on Tuesday, October 30, 2012 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Funds raised from this event have always been for financial aid for lower-income families to attend Catholic Schools. However, with the new Indiana Tax Credit Scholarships, most gifts will be directed through the Educational CHOICE Charitable Trust, the Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO) serving the archdiocese. A series of advance events have already raised some \$270,000 for SGO scholarships.



Sister James Michael



Denny Sponsel



Fred Klipsch

For this and other reasons, the format of the *Celebrating Catholic School Values* event will change from a formal dinner to a major reception this year. **Sr. James Michael Kesterson, SP**, longtime principal of St. Jude School, Indianapolis, and **Dennis Sponsel**, Board President of Mother Theodore Catholic Academies (MTCA) and President of RJE Business Interiors, will receive Career Achievement awards. **Fred Klipsch**, President of Educational CHOICE Charitable Trust, School Choice Indiana, Hoosiers for Economic Growth and the Klipsch Group, Inc., will receive a Community Service Award. **Rodney Byrnes**, a graduate of Cardinal Ritter High School and Harvard University and MTCA Board member, will be the speaker. There will be a one hour reception, a one hour program and an optional dessert.

CELEBRATING
CATHOLIC SCHOOL
VALUES:

Scholarship and Career Achievement Awards

This event presents an extraordinary opportunity to help families afford a Catholic education while also benefiting donors. Kindergarten or first grade students entering a Catholic school for the first time on a CHOICE SGO scholarship may qualify for an Indiana School Voucher after two semesters on a scholarship. The vouchers can be for up to \$4,500 a year and even more for high school – a potential of \$54,000 to \$64,000 over the next 12 years.

The student receives great benefit, but so does the donor. Besides knowing that he or she is helping deserving students receive a better education, the donor receives a 50 percent tax credit up to the limit of his or her state tax liability and can also take a federal tax deduction. The final cost of giving \$1,000 may be as low as \$150 and make a lasting difference in a child's life. There are several levels of scholarship and event sponsorships available.

Many event tickets will be given as awards for giving, however, individual tickets are \$75. For more information about sponsorships or tickets, contact Rosemary O'Brien in the Office of Stewardship and Development at 236-1568, (800)382-9836, ext. 1568 or robrien@archindy.org.

STELLAR PERFORMANCE IN ARCHDIOCESAN SCHOOLS!

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis prides itself on preparing today's learner for tomorrow's world. With a constant focus on Catholic identity within our rigorous standards in all academic areas, our students continue to shine. Our results on ISTEP+ for 2012 are just one example. ISTEP+ was administered this past spring to students in grades 3- 8 in Math and Reading/English/Language Arts (ELA). Fourth and sixth grade students were assessed in Science and fifth and seventh grade students also took the Social Studies (SocS) assessment. Every school utilizes this data in addition to the building-level data to set school improvement goals that continue to enhance instruction and learning in our Catholic schools. Data shown in the table below represents the passing percentage for each grade level in the tested content areas followed by the total percentages for both students in the archdiocese and all students tested in Indiana.

ISTEP+ Scores for Spring 2012	3 ELA % Pass	3 Math % Pass	4 ELA % Pass	4 Math % Pass	4 Science % Pass	
Archdiocese of Indianapolis*	94%	88%	94%	86%	92%	
Indiana*	86%	80%	82%	79%	79%	
	5 ELA % Pass	5 Math % Pass	5 SocS % Pass	6 ELA % Pass	6 Math % Pass	6 Science % Pass
Archdiocese of Indianapolis*	91%	94%	88%	91%	93%	83%
Indiana*	79%	86%	69%	79%	83%	65%
	7 ELA % Pass	7 Math % Pass	5 SocS % Pass	8 ELA % Pass	8 Math % Pass	
Archdiocese of Indianapolis*	94%	92%	91%	93%	92%	
Indiana*	76%	79%	72%	74%	80%	
	TOTAL ELA % Pass	TOTAL Math % Pass	TOTAL Science % Pass	TOTAL Soc S % Pass		
Archdiocese of Indianapolis*	93%	91%	87%	89%		
Indiana*	79%	81%	72%	71%		



* All percentages are rounded to the nearest percent. Indiana scores include all schools (public, charter and accredited private) that took ISTEP+ 2012



WELCOME TO OCE, GINA!

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis Office of Catholic Education welcomes **Mrs. Gina Kuntz Fleming**, who has accepted the position of Assistant Superintendent of Catholic Schools. Gina brings 18 years of educational experience to the position and a strong professional background including a master's degree in special education and administration. Previously, Gina served as principal of Holy Name Catholic School in Beech Grove and as a teacher in Warren Township. Gina also worked for the Christel DeHaan Family Foundation on Project E for education.

The mother of two sons, Noah and Andrew, Gina and her husband, Scott, recently celebrated their 16th wedding anniversary. Scott is a coach at Marian University. Gina joined the Office Catholic Education Schools Team on July 1, and looks forward to working with all of our ministries. She can be reached at 317-236-4051 by e-mail at gflaming@archindy.org.

See the feature article about Gina in *The Criterion*, August 17 edition by John Shaughnessy or go to: <http://www.archindy.org/criterion/local/2012/08-17/fleming.html>.

NEW OCE WEBSITE COMING SOON!

The current OCE Website, www.archindy.org/oce was developed as part of Project EXCEED in 2002-03. It was state-of-the art among websites at the time and it revolutionized the way the office of Catholic Education did business with parishes and schools. For example, it became possible to give the same level of service in advertising teacher and administrator openings from Indianapolis to New Albany via the website. Registrations for all educational training and events could be completed and charged online. And, communication with administrators expanded from a monthly mailing to a weekly e-mail driving readers onto the site for their Thursday "Oce-notes," with links to many informational downloads.

One of the most revolutionary parts of the website as designed by Server-Side at the time was a functional "back door" to the website that allowed non-programmer support staff to manipulate most of the site content.

Now after ten years, the Office of Catholic Education has been authorized in the budget process to develop a new OCE Website that will both maintain the functionality of the old site and enhance it according to today's advanced web standards.

Galvin Technologies, Inc. has been engaged to design the new website, make it more compatible with the www.archindy.org (archdiocesan) website, and once again, allow staff to manage much of the content via a Content Management System (CMS). This will provide a Word-like interface to the pages allowing nearly all content to be manipulated. The site will provide more sophisticated job bank, calendar, news and event management.

The redesign effort is being led by Joe Peters, associate executive director, OCE and Brandon Evans, archdiocesan webmaster as a joint project of the Office of Catholic Education and the Catholic Communication Office. Also, working on the project with Galvin are Jackie Vandenberg, administrative coordinator for Youth Ministry and OCE office manager, Cindy Clark.

"We have come to rely on the web for much of our regular communication, so anything we can do to make it more efficient, more effective and more user-friendly, will enhance our efforts to support those in the field who are delivering ministry," said Joe Peters.





ADMINISTRATORS OPEN THE DOOR TO THE YEAR OF FAITH

Some 240 people participated in the 2012 Office of Catholic Education Administrators' Conference in French Lick July 23-24. This year's theme was "An Open Door" and centered around the celebration of the Year of Faith which begins October 11, 2012 and continues until November 24, 2013.

Principals, parish administrators of religious education, youth ministers, pastoral associates and clergy were also joined by 16 sponsoring vendors. There were opportunities for education, formation and fellowship for all present. It was a special blessing to have the Apostolic Administrator for the Archdiocese, Bishop Christopher Coyne, present for much of the meeting as well. From the opening Mass with Bishop Coyne through the closing Mass, pastoral, educational and catechetical leadership was the focus.

In Bishop Coyne's keynote address, he gave some background information

about the Year of Faith which included an explanation of Catholic evangelization. He said, "... evangelization is about creating that personal relationship between the person and Jesus Christ. The work of evangelization is intended to provoke faith where there is no faith." Instead of focusing on far-away lands and peoples, the "New Evangelization" is focused on people in countries, especially the West, where the Faith has become lukewarm or has virtually disappeared. As Bishop Coyne put it, the Year of Faith is "...an effort to strengthen the faith of the people in the parish so that they may be more able to be evangelizers in their day-to-day lives."



Bishop Coyne

Bishop Coyne offered two challenges: First, to parishes, that they develop parish evangelization teams to further the work of evangelization in their own areas; and, second, to each of us personally. He asked each of us to consider these questions, "Do I believe in Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior and do I live my life accordingly?" In other words, am I ready to be an evangelizer, or am I in need of evangelization myself? And, "...am I also convinced that the fullness of salvation is found in Jesus Christ and His Church; am I ready to spread the Good News? I hope your answer is "yes." Clearly those present at the conference are trying to live out this hope daily.

(See related article on the Year of Faith on Page 4)



Mark Your Calendar!

◆ Indianapolis Catholic Youth Conference (ICYC) 2012

ICYC 2012 will take place on November 4, 2012 at Marian University. This conference is for all high school students in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana. The keynote presenter is Katie Prejean, a Director of Youth Ministry and High School Teacher from Lake Charles, LA. In addition, Ceili Rain, musicians who have performed at several NCYC Conferences will perform. For more information about this exciting event, registration information and/or volunteer opportunities, please visit our website at: <http://www.archindy.org/youth/ICYC.html>.



◆ March for Life Pilgrimage — January 24-26, 2013



Archdiocesan Youth Ministry is once again getting ready for the annual March for Life Pilgrimage to Washington D.C. This year, the group will depart by bus on Thursday, January 24 and return on Saturday evening, January 26, 2013. On Friday, prior to the March for Life, the group will participate in the **Life is VERY**

Good Rally sponsored by the Catholic Diocese of Arlington and featuring the Matt Maher Band (music), Steve Angrisano (emcee), and Elizabeth McClung (keynote speaker). Registration information for the pilgrimage will be available early-October at www.archindy.org/youth.

◆ National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) 2013

Once again, the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) will be returning to Indianapolis November 21-23, 2013. Jesse Manibusan will be the Emcee.

Keynote Speakers will include Bob Perron, Jackie Francois, and Ansel Augustine. The spotlight performer will be Matt Maher. Registration Information will be coming soon to www.archindy.org.



“LIGHTING THE TORCH FOR CHRIST” 2012 Annual SPRED Retreat

Thirty-two SPRED “Special Friends” and 20 catechists from around the archdiocese gathered in August for the annual SPRED Retreat at the Benedict Inn and Conference Center in Beech Grove in true Olympic fashion. This year's SPRED



Catechist **Jene Rene Mbassi** helps SPRED Friend **Keith Wagner** make a rosary

Friends joined in fellowship and love to light their heart on fire with the torch of God's Love. The Friends and their catechists worked together to make rosaries and learn to say the Luminous Mysteries. In the spirit of gratitude the Friends made a beautiful framed match stick cross to give to the Sisters of Our Lady of Grace Monastery to show them how they have been a Christ's light by hosting this event each year.

The torch was carried outside to the “Olympic Games” where friends tried hard to beat Deacon Martin Rodriguez in a game of ground polo. At sunset Friends and catechists joined with each other and the Sisters in praise, worship and music while they sent off balloon prayers into the heavens. The Light of Christ is a gift to all people. Jesus invites us to help him share his light with the world and that is what our SPRED Friends do best. All people have ability, talent and gifts, but so many of our catechists say, “SPRED Friends really know how to be close to God.” Our special Friends are available to Jesus and in them we see Christ's light.

PROVOKING FAITH

The Year of Faith, parishes and parish evangelization teams – what do they have in common? Everything! In a recent speech, Bishop Christopher Coyne, Apostolic Administrator for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, described the work of evangelization as “...intended to provoke faith where there is no faith.” Our parishes are the very place where people encounter Christ both through the sacraments and in each other. In this Year of Faith, we will emphasize deepening our own faith and sharing it with others.

October 11, 2012 marks the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council and the 20th anniversary of the publication of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. In celebration of these events and the Year of Faith, each parishioner in the archdiocese is invited to read one of the Vatican II documents entitled *Lumen Gentium* (The Light of Nations) and to provide input into a new pastoral resource called,

“Ten Things We Want You to Know about the Catholic Faith.” The resource will be designed so it can be used by individuals and parishes to spread the Good News about our Catholic Faith. During this process, participants will engage in prayer, reflection and discussion to help deepen their own faith and to feel more comfortable when given the opportunity to share their faith stories with others.



It takes a team, though, to focus on the real needs in their parish community and geographical area. Every parish is already evangelizing by celebrating the Eucharist and the other sacraments and by reaching out to the poor. But, the Holy Father challenges us to do even more – to step out and share

our Faith. The archdiocesan Evangelization Commission and Peg McEvoy, Associate Director for Evangelization and Family Catechesis, have been developing a process and resources to help parishes build evangelization teams and plans that can become integral to the way a parish operates.

As the Year of Faith events unfold at your parish and in the archdiocese, please know that you are invited and encouraged to engage in the Year of Faith. As Pope Benedict XVI said in his proclamation of the Year of Faith, *Porta Fidei*, “Faith expands our hearts in hope and enables us to bear life-giving witness. Indeed, it opens the hearts and minds of those who listen to respond to the Lord’s invitation to adhere to his word and become his disciples.”

(For more information on the Year of Faith and parish Evangelization Teams, contact Peg McEvoy, at pmcevoy@archindy.org)

THE KING'S MEN

HELP MEN'S MINISTRY GROW IN YOUR PARISH!

The men of your parish and school communities need focus help to assist with living virtuous lives. Please promote “The King’s Men” training to be held Saturday, December 1, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Our Lady of the Greenwood School cafeteria.

The ideal scenario for this training is five or so men from a parish attending (Pastors attending would really be ideal!). The fee is \$49 per man by October 27 with a slight increase afterwards. The fee includes lunch. Information is available at www.thekingsmen.org/registration.

The King’s Men can help start men’s ministry from scratch or reinvigorate existing men’s groups in Catholic parishes. The “Leader’s Resource Manual” provides everything needed to help make Catholic men’s formation easy and practical. Please encourage a group of men from your school or parish to attend.

Catholics Care, Catholics Vote

The US Bishops statement on faith in the public square is called *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*. It was re-released late last year with a new “Introductory Note” that helps Catholics better understand the underpinnings of church teaching on faith and political life. In addition to the document, the bishops have launched a web page devoted to faithful citizenship where you will find great information, prayers, and other resources for parishes, schools and families.



Remember:

We vote because we care.

Check it out!

www.faithfulcitizenship.org

RONCALLI WINS NATIONAL AWARD



Welcoming, faithful, simple, kind, humorous, inspired change, peaceful, humble and servant. These are the nine traits identified at Roncalli High School in Indianapolis and highlighted in every classroom and hallway of this interparochial secondary school named after Blessed Pope John XXIII. These traits, along with prayer and spiritual development of staff and students, are some reasons why Roncalli was recently

named one of 12 national recipients of the 2012 “Catholic Schools for Tomorrow Award for Innovations in Education” from *Today’s Catholic Teacher* magazine.

This prestigious award honors schools that are taking steps to give their faculties and student body the advantages of today’s research, initiatives and technologies to enhance teaching and learning for all.

Roncalli Principal, Chuck Weisenbach, states, “I am very proud of the efforts that everyone in our school community has made to try to bring a real focus and a true appreciation for the life, legacy and spirit of Angelo Cardinal Roncalli. Blessed Pope John’s spirit truly lives at Roncalli.”

MyStudentsProgress.com (MSP) is a school management software system designed exclusively for private schools that is being used in many Catholic schools around the country. Some 54 of our schools in the archdiocese have adopted the system this year to replace a now outdated data system in use for the past ten years. MSP allows parents online access to their student's assignments, grades and activities from any computer or device with a connection to the internet.

Having excellent data management for schools is a high priority for the schools this year with the increased reporting required by the state in managing the new Indiana school vouchers and other accountability measures required of all accredited schools. However, the MSP System does not stop with just data and reporting. It addresses school safety, parent reporting, financial management, development and enrollment management, etc. MSP says, "We help schools reduce administrative costs and improve communication with teachers and parents by providing 20 software modules designed exclusively for private schools" (see table at right).

As with any new complex computer application, there have been some early growing pains, but we believe the system will enhance the delivery of our educational product once fully up and running. Schools are coming online as they reach certain benchmarks for data entry and MSP activates their account. Onsite training will be provided soon, but there will still be a learning curve until all or most of the modules are activated. Not all schools will use the entire product and a number of schools that have previously purchased other management systems will deal with required reporting through a special upload portal being provided in the MSP system.

We ask for your patience and understanding until MSP is fully operational.

FEATURES OF MSP MODULES

**GRADE BOOK • REPORT CARDS • PROGRESS REPORTS
ATTENDANCE • CONDUCT**
Allows teachers and administrators to enter grades and other information in real time for instantaneous online access by parents in a Parent Portal

ELECTRONIC CUMULATIVE FOLDER
Allows for tracking of the above information and more

PARENT ALERT SMS TEXT • E-MAIL BLASTING
Instant communication with the entire school community can be used for routine announcements, but can also make the difference between a minor event and major crisis

MASTER SCHEDULE
Accommodates schools' unique scheduling needs

REPORT GENERATOR
Most reports are filed by the archdiocese based on school-entered data in the system

CALENDAR • BULLETIN • ACTIVITIES
Allows teachers to post assignments and other information by grade or class including student activity schedules for viewing in a Parent Portal

LUNCH • TUITION • ONLINE PAYMENT
Allows parents to order lunches, track balances for lunch, tuition, fees and other accounts and make payments by ACH, credit or debit cards

DONOR • ALUMNI • PROSPECTS • ADMISSIONS
Enhances the development and marketing efforts of the school, providing access to current and historical giving, tracking school alumni and prospective new families

congratulations

Youth Ministers Honored At Recent Administrators' Conference

**CHRISTINA SMITH
SERVANT LEADER OF THE YEAR**

The *Servant Leader of the Year* award is presented annually to a person in Youth Ministry who reflects a deep faith in God, solid Catholic principles, and a deep commitment to young people and the vision of total Youth Ministry. Moreover, this person is identified as a positive role model for young people and for adult youth ministry leaders through her commitment to personal and professional growth. Pastors, colleagues and the faithful-at-large are invited to nominate. **Christina Smith**, Youth Minister at St. Ambrose, Seymour, was nominated by one of her former youth group members who offered many words of praise, acknowledging Christina



Christina Smith with **Harry A. Plummer** (left) and **Fr. Dan Staublin**, pastor at Saint Ambrose, Seymour

"... as one who is willing to go the extra mile, a positive role model, an inspiration, and one who embodies the spirit of this award."

**JANET ROTH
COMPANIONS ON THE JOURNEY**

Companions on the Journey is the highest recognition from the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM) for an (arch) diocese to confer on adults who demonstrate: excellence in youth ministry, commitment to ongoing education and formation, longevity in ministry, commitment to young people, and outstanding leadership at the local and/or diocesan level. **Janet Roth**, St. Benedict Parish, Terre Haute, was honored with this award for her 27 years of commitment and excellence in youth ministry for the Catholic community of Terre Haute and for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.



Janet Roth with **Harry A. Plummer** (left) and **Kay Scoville**, Director of Youth Ministry



Reflections from the Executive Director

In these challenging times, the need to give public witness to our Catholic faith is becoming an increasingly pressing concern – especially for all of us in Catholic leadership. As I consider how to faithfully respond, I'm reminded of a story I heard years ago about a man trying to bring a large wedge of gourmet cheese into the country. After arguing with the customs officer for a while he gave up, sat down in a chair and proceeded to eat the cheese, proudly announcing, "I will too bring this cheese into the country!" An amusing story, but on a deeper level it may serve as a parable about bringing our faith into the public square, with the man representing each of us, the cheese representing our Catholic faith and the customs agent representing those in our country seeking to delegitimize the Church's participation in giving public witness concerning issues which are determining the future of American society.

The stakes are incredibly high. Our US Catholic Bishops are reminding us with increasing clarity and urgency that religious liberty isn't just about our ability to worship at church on Sunday or pray the Rosary at home; it's about whether America will continue to have a free society or whether the state alone will determine who gets to contribute to the common good, and how they get to do it.

Faithfully meeting this challenge will take fortitude. As an exemplar to motivate myself in this regard, I call to mind a rather unsettling contrast St. Thomas More wrote about while in the Tower of London awaiting his martyrdom for giving public witness to our Faith. He drew an analogy from the evening of Christ's betrayal between the sleepy apostles who didn't follow through with their intentions and the wide awake Judas, who did. This is certainly food for thought and prayer since none of us want to be caught sleeping at a time when our faithful action as Catholics and Americans has never been more critical.

So, as we prepare for this Year of Faith let's ask Our Lord to give us fearless, faithful hearts – ready to give public witness to our Catholic Faith as gladly as one beggar telling another beggar where to find bread. Or maybe even cheese.

God's peace,

Harry A. Plummer
Executive Director



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