OFFICE OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION ANNOUNCES RESTRUCTURING

Last October, the Chancery began a review of the Secretariat for Catholic Education and Faith Formation to discern if the current structure was the best way to educate and evangelize – not just through our Catholic schools, but through all of our ministries involved in the lifelong process of forming disciples.

The current organizational structure of the secretariat is complex and includes the following ministries: Office of Catholic Schools, Faith Formation, Catholic Youth Organization, Youth Ministry, Young Adult and College Campus Ministry, the Office of Pro-Life and Family Life, Mother Theodore Catholic Academies and St. Mary’s Child Center.

School vouchers and new regulations concerning school accreditation and testing have dramatically changed the educational landscape in recent years. An increased focus on evangelization and college campus ministry, the growing need for intercultural ministry programs and changes to the Pro-Life and Family Life Office were also factors that led to the assessment.

As of July 1, 2015, with the approval of Archbishop Tobin, the ministries overseen by the Secretariat for Education and Faith Formation will be realigned under three separate secretariats – the Secretariat for Catholic Schools, the Secretariat for Worship and Evangelization and the Secretariat for Pastoral Ministries.

The Secretariat for Catholic Schools will include the CYO and St. Mary’s Child Center. Faith Formation will be overseen by the Secretariat for Worship and Evangelization. The Secretariat for Pastoral Ministries will include Youth Ministry, Young Adult and College Campus Ministry, the Office of Pro-Life and Family Life, Intercultural Ministry and the Office of Ecumenism and Inter-religious Affairs.

Gina Fleming, the Superintendent of Catholic Schools, will continue to lead the Secretariat for Catholic Schools. The Secretariat for Worship and Evangelization remains under the direction of Fr. Pat Beidelman and a search for a Director for the Secretariat for Pastoral Ministries is currently being conducted.

By organizing into three secretariats the archdiocese will better serve each of these important ministries in a more efficient and effective way, allowing all to better serve parishes in central and southern Indiana.
COORDINATOR OF CATECHETICAL RESOURCES JOINS FAITH FORMATION TEAM

When Peg McEvoy left the Archdiocese to become catechetical director for the Diocese of Saginaw, an opportunity arose to rearrange a few job responsibilities and hire our first-ever Coordinator of Catechetical Resources. That new coordinator is Gabriela Carrero.

Gabriela was born in Puerto Rico and her family moved to Cincinnati when she was a child. A graduate of Marian University, Gabriela is fluent in Spanish, well-equipped for intercultural ministry and very knowledgeable about our Catholic faith. All these traits, combined with her deep sense of discipleship and joyful witness to the beauty of a Catholic life make Gabriela excellently-equipped to assist catechetical leaders identify teaching materials and use them well.

“If you have the right tool, every job is easier,” says Ken Ogorek, archdiocesan Director of Catechesis. “This new position focusing on catechetical resources will help us ensure the implementation of good catechesis— the tools of effective and authentically Catholic faith formation—are in the hands of catechetical leaders throughout the Archdiocese.” Gabriela can be reached at gcarrero@archindy.org or by phone at 317-236-1437.

1ST ANNUAL ARCHDIOCESAN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS REPORT

The Office of Catholic Education is excited to announce the upcoming release of the first edition of the Catholic Schools Annual Report. This report will highlight the accomplishments of our schools, the benefits of Catholic education and many other exciting topics related to our Catholic schools. Be on the look-out for the Annual Report this coming fall!

GROWING KNOWLEDGE AND GROWING THE FAITH IN OUR MOTHER THEODORE CATHOLIC ACADEMIES

In addition to teaching our Catholic faith to those who are already baptized, the Mother Theodore Catholic Academies (MTCA) have proven to be sanctuaries for evangelization and growth of our Catholic Church. For example, Holy Cross Parish has seen an incredible growth in its baptisms these past two years. Forty students were baptized last year, and this year nearly 40 more were brought into the faith. “When phenomenal leaders are at the helm of both a parish and a school, as is the case with Fr. Chris Wadelton (shown at left) and Mrs. Ruth Hittel, God’s graces materialize in amazing ways,” states Gina Fleming, Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. “Father Chris is fully present to his people, just as Jesus calls each of us to be. He models the faith through his own actions but also teaches it so beautifully through storytelling and through the celebration of the Holy Eucharist.”

We are blessed to have Archbishop Joseph Tobin and the wonderful pastors of our center city parishes guide us, direct us, and help Sacred Scripture come alive. Our Church and schools are better and stronger because of their dedication and commitment to our Catholic faith. The students, families and communities of our MTCA—Central Catholic, Holy Angels, Holy Cross Central and St. Philip Neri—thank you!

“Were our hearts not burning within us!”

Young Adult and College Campus Ministry Rolls out Emmaus Groups

Young Adult and College Campus Ministry (YACCM) has seen that a desire has grown out of our community to form small groups. So for the past four years, YACCM has helped facilitate the growth of these groups around the city and archdiocese. We have men’s groups, women’s groups, mixed gender groups, groups based on different topics and groups of different size. All reflect the same vision as the groups started by Our Lord and his early Apostles…to gather together in community, to reflect on the life of Jesus and to be sent out to do the same in the world.

Small group ministry plays an essential role in the overall vision of our ministry in YACCM. We have successful outreach programs in place to introduce people to the larger Church. And when they are ready, smaller communities like the ones that exist through our office, invite young adults to journey even deeper into their stories alongside other young adults who are seeking the same thing.

We see this ministry as so essential, in fact, that we feel Our Lord calling us to put more time and effort into growing it as a more vibrant aspect of our work. So starting this summer/fall, we will be rolling out more streamlined and dedicated opportunities for young adults to lead and join small groups.

They will be called Emmaus Groups. Much like what we see in the story of Jesus on the road to Emmaus, we gather together on the journey to recognize Jesus in our lives and proclaim, “Were our hearts not burning within us!” We will offer opportunities for people of all walks on the journey while at the same time provide guidance, leadership and a curriculum for those who feel called to lead a group.
ACRE GIVES INSIGHTS ON ATTITUDES, PRACTICES AND PERCEPTIONS

Each year our standardized assessment in religion, the ACRE instrument offered by the National Catholic Educational Association, helps give us a sense of how the cognitive dimension of faith formation is progressing. Along with the knowledge aspect of catechesis comes efforts in the affective and behavioral realms; ACRE provides helpful information in these areas as well.

For example, 93% of 8th-graders in our parish catechetical programs report valuing the cultural, racial, and ethnic diversity in the global Catholic Church. Among our Catholic school 8th-graders, one in four indicates having thought about becoming a sister, brother or priest. These are just examples pulled from the wealth of helpful information in the ACRE reports.

We will continue working with catechetical leaders so that ministry efforts including formation for teachers, catechists and youth ministry volunteers can be adjusted in part based on this standardized assessment of our faith formation effort. As the saying goes, “God loves us enough to meet us where we are, and He loves us too much to let us stay there.” ACRE helps us sense where students are on their journey of faith so we can better accompany them while growing in our own life of discipleship.

“I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me…” (Jn 10:14)

ARCHDIOCESAN DISABILITY AWARENESS AND SPRED FAMILY LITURGY

On April 26th, 2015 individuals with special needs, their families, care-takers, friends and catechists joined the congregation of the SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral for Mass, celebrated by Father Pat Beidelman (shown below), rector of the cathedral and Director of the Secretariat of Spiritual Life and Worship. The joy was palpable on this beautiful day as we celebrated sacraments with five of our SPRED participants—Saul Dominguez Sotello, Jonathan Ocampo and Jose Javier Silva-Flores from St. Monica and Stephanie Hemmelgarn from Holy Name, who received their First Holy Communion, and Brian Torbeck who received the Sacrament of Confirmation. To raise awareness of different resources that are available, we were joined at our reception by representatives from Unlocking the Spectrum, the University of Indianapolis School of Occupational Therapy, Gigi’s Playhouse, and Huser Homecare. In addition, a variety of adaptive faith formation resources were also available to explore. This day was a beautiful reminder that each person is called to know and respond in love to the Good Shepherd who already knows us completely and loves us more deeply than we can imagine.

AMY WILSON
2015 St. Theodora Guerin Excellence in Education Award Recipient

“Love all in God and for God, and all will be well.” ~ St. Theodora Guerin

Being a product of Catholic education herself, Amy Wilson understands the characteristics necessary to provide a quality Catholic education based on the teachings of Jesus Christ and His Holy Church. This along with her ability to connect with students of all academic levels is why Amy Wilson is this year’s recipient of the Saint Theodora Guerin Excellence in Education Award, the highest honor for a Catholic educator in the archdiocese. Amy has been teaching at St. Roch School in Indianapolis for the past fourteen years. “My primary focus is to serve the children and their families in the best way possible,” states Wilson. And she does this by developing personal relationships with her students and their families.

The desire to draw out the best in herself so she can draw out the best in her students is a defining quality of hers, according to people who know the 1996 graduate of Roncalli High School and the 2000 graduate of Marian University, both of Indianapolis. “You have a right to be tremendously proud of all that you have accomplished and the lives that you have touched,” writes Daniel Elsener, President of Marian University.

Outside the classroom, Amy continues to make an impact as a Catholic educator by organizing a Friendship-Anti Bullying Rally each year, leading STREAM (Science Technology Religion Engineering Art and Mathematics) initiatives among her staff, coaching Spell Bowl, kickball and volleyball, cantoring and being a Eucharistic Minister in the parish, and consistently competing in half-marathons and triathlons.

RONCALLI HIGH SCHOOL BOARD RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION

At their national convention this past April, the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) honored the Roncalli High School Boards of Directors over the past twenty years as a winner of its annual Outstanding Board Award. Locally, all past Board members were invited to an evening honoring their service on April 30th at the Indiana Historical Society.

On behalf of Archbishop Joseph Tobin, Chancellor Mickey Lentz, Mrs. Gina Kuntz Fleming, Superintendent of Catholic Schools and the entire archdiocese, Congratulations Amy and Roncalli High School for your commitment to Catholic education!
YOUTH MINISTRY HOSTS DISCIPLES FOR LIFE YOUTH RALLY

For many years, Youth Ministry has sponsored an Archdiocesan trip to the March for Life in Washington D.C. during the anniversary of Roe v. Wade. With more and more parishes, schools, and deaneries planning their own trips, it was time to look at a new direction as an archdiocese. On January 21, 2015 the Youth Ministry Office hosted approximately 500 participants for the inaugural Disciples for Life at St. John the Evangelist in downtown Indianapolis. This was an opportunity for teens, young adults, and families to join together as a large community of faith to bear witness to the Gospel of Life. The high energy event began with songs led by St. Theodore Guérin High School’s choir. Nationally recognized singer, songwriter and storyteller, Steve Angrisano, led the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with a church full of teens who fell to their knees in silence. Fr. Rick Nagel, pastor of St. John, gave a beautiful reflection on the dignity and sanctity of life. As we look forward to Disciples for Life 2016, we hope and pray for an end to abortion.

“A PROMISE TO KEEP” MENTORS RECOGNIZED

Student leaders who served in the chastity program called A Promise to Keep (APTK) were recently recognized at a luncheon for their leadership in promoting the Church’s teaching on chastity and sexuality. This year was especially significant as it marked the 20th anniversary of the APTK program!

Over the past 20 years, we have been blessed to have a number of local dignitaries deliver the keynote address. Although students appreciated the recognition from mayors, governors and folks like Jeff and Karen Saturday, it has become a tradition to invite young adults, who were themselves former mentors, back to deliver the keynote address. This year’s keynote address was delivered by Aaron Hollowell and his fiancée, Jenny Lutgring (shown at left with Margaret Hendricks, the APTK Program Coordinator).

Young adults like Aaron and Jenny, as well as the high school mentors themselves, are the “unsung heroes” who strive to do what is right, concentrating less on “preaching” the Gospel but more importantly, living it in deed and action.

To watch the videos of all the speakers including Archbishop Tobin, Fr. Eric Augenstein, Aaron Hollowell and Jenny Lutgring and the five APTK mentors, log on to bit.ly/1Qgsjo3. Contact Margaret Hendricks directly at Mhendricks@archindy.org.

SAVE THE DATE!

Annual SPRED Overnight Retreat FOR SPRED FRIENDS 18 YEARS AND OLDER AUGUST 8-9, 2015 BENEDICTINE INN RETREAT AND CONFERENCE CENTER Contact Erin Jeffries at ejeffries@archindy.org or by phone at 317-236-1448.

“SPRED SAFARI: GOING WILD FOR SPRED”

The 15th Annual SPRED Dinner Dance was held at the Marten House on March 4, 2015. Over 190 friends, family members, catechists and friends of SPRED arrived ready for an evening of celebration, with a ticket auction, dinner, and dancing. Coordinator of Ministry to Persons with Special Needs Erin Jeffries encouraged all who were present to share their own stories so that other individuals with special needs and their families who may not know that they have a home in the Church may share in the same hope and joy they have found.

A highlight of the evening was taking a moment to thank Mary Jo Thomas-Day, the Director of Religious Education at St. Monica Catholic Church, and Beth Reitz, Pastoral Associate at St. Pius X Catholic Church, who have been supporters of the SPRED Program in their parishes and the diocese from its beginnings.

GOLF FORE FAITH OUTING A SUCCESS!

On Monday, May 11th, the Office of Catholic Education hosted the Sixth Annual Golf Fore Faith (GFF) outing at Crooked Stick Golf Club in Carmel, Indiana. This year there were twenty teams who enjoyed playing this prestigious course.

Shown at left are David Peterson and Shaun Cofer from the winning team, American Structurepoint, and Bob Brody and David Moore from the second place team, Franciscan Alliance.

Mark your calendars for the seventh annual outing at Crooked Stick on Monday, May 9, 2016!

Volunteers Needed for the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) NOVEMBER 19-21, 2015 • INDIANAPOLIS

More than 1,000 volunteers are needed to create a safe and exceptional experience for one of the largest gatherings of Catholic youth in the nation. More information can be found here: http://www.archindyym.com/#ncyc/coc7
CHRIST THE KING SCHOOL HONORED AS “EXCELLING” FAMILY FRIENDLY SCHOOL

Christ the King Catholic School, located on the northwest side of Indianapolis, has been designated as an “excelling” Family Friendly School in a new program sponsored by the Indiana Department of Education.

The purpose of the new program is to address the academic, physical, emotional and social needs of students while providing the needed resources and fostering the active involvement of their families through schools and the community. It is a state recognition program for schools that excel in the involvement of families and communities in their children’s education.

TRIP TO ST. JOHN BOSCO CONFERENCE AGAIN A SUMMER HIT!

Again this July several catechetical leaders will enjoy a trip to the Saint John Bosco conference thanks to the generosity of several benefactors along with a Total Catholic Education grant. This excellent conference helps form teachers and faith formation leaders, offering workshop tracks for Catechists, Campus Ministers, Youth Ministers, Catholic School Teachers and Administrators, Directors of Religious Education, and RCIA coordinators, thus enhancing our efforts to teach the Faith to folks from womb to tomb.

In addition to the TCE grant helping fund our Archdiocesan trip this summer, St. Gabriel Parish in Connersville applied for and received a grant from this fund so that nearly ten of its catechists and youth ministry volunteers can attend the conference in July. In all, nearly twenty people from the archdiocese will represent our catechetical ministry at this annual gathering.

The Saint John Bosco conference features excellent keynote speakers and helpful workshops as well as multiple adoration and worship opportunities—making it as much a retreat as a professional development experience. More information on the conference can be found at this address: http://steubenvilleconferences.com/adult/bosco.

YOUTH AND VOLUNTEERS HONORED

On May 6, 2015 the Catholic Youth Organization and Youth Ministry Volunteer Awards were presented at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral with Archbishop Tobin presiding at the ceremony. At this event, fourteen young people from seven parishes received the Spirit of Youth Award. In addition, twenty volunteers from seventeen parishes received the Monsignor Busald Award, and five volunteers from five parishes received the prestigious St. John Bosco Award. The graduating seniors who served on the Archdiocesan Youth Council were blessed and the new council was commissioned. Congratulations to all and thank you for your service!

A NARRATIVE BY CHARLIE WESSEL

Charlie Wessel is a parishioner of St. Simon the Apostle Parish, Indianapolis and a 2015 graduate of Bishop Chatard High School. He has served as a member of the Archdiocesan Youth Council for three years, participated in the Indianapolis Catholic Youth Conference (ICYC) in 2014 and was a Youth Animator for the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) hosted in Indianapolis in 2011 and 2013. He will be entering Simon Bruté Seminary this fall.

"We have all been crafted for a certain role...priesthood is the role that has been given to me." Three months ago I wrote these words for a video that I produced for a class assignment. However, the ability for me to profess this statement of my vocation did not come easily. In fact, it took me a good six months to finally accept what God was calling me to. I was not feeling any inclination towards the priesthood; rather I thought that it was simply the responsibility of all Christians to discern their vocation. I had my own plans of studying visual effects at Savannah College of Art and Design and I had no desire to sacrifice that plan, and I didn't want to be lonely. I had also just met a girl who I loved being with. I do not know exactly why God placed a girl in my life. What I do know is that I have learned about selflessness, the beauty of a woman, how couples can get distracted and spend too much time together, about forgiveness, about family, about the goods and struggles I would have in marriage, the time that a relationship takes, how I can lose myself in a relationship, how to grow close with another person. I have experienced the intimate love and bitter pain that a chaste relationship can bring. All of these lessons have directed me towards why priesthood is my calling from God. I have learned that I need to quiet myself to listen to Him and open myself up to His plan in order to be truly happy, and I know that priesthood will make me happy. My decision to enter into the seminary has sparked a whole new journey in my life, bringing with it a new found excitement but also a plethora of questions and doubts. God wants me to be alone so that I can listen to Him and find answers in His truth, not to make me lonely. Thus the next eight years of seminary begin.

Christ the King began the application process in the fall of 2014 by sending out Family Friendly School surveys to parents, staff, students and administration. A formal application and statement was submitted to the state. The final step was to prepare a response for the state to address the six standards, ten goals, and the thirty-five established criteria areas to show how the school excelled. The standards included: the welcoming atmosphere for family and students, respect, inclusiveness, communications, supporting student success, understanding the system and problem solving, empowering families, shared decision making, effective parental involvement, and collaborating with the community.

The school submitted a binder with evidence that included pictures, copies, reports, flyers, school brochures and video, and samples of the multitude of ways that the school addresses each of the standards, goals and criteria. The award designation will be in effect through 2016. Congratulations Christ the King!
Reflections from the Director of Youth Ministry …

Spring is a time of renewal and a time of transition, experiencing endings and new beginnings. It is the conclusion of the school year; completion of Sacramental preparation, celebrations of graduations, marriages, ordinations, and hopefully, a time to pause and reflect. As I reflect over the past year, I have vivid memories of many joyful as well as painful events in our archdiocese. We have worked many hours serving God and others. Yet, our work is not done as we look to the challenges ahead.

The following quote from Pope Francis resonates. “I see clearly, that the thing the church needs most today is the ability to heal wounds and to warm the hearts of the faithful; it needs nearness, proximity. I see the church as a field hospital after battle.” As seen in images from Nepal after the massive earthquake, a field hospital does not provide the utmost sterility, privacy and comfort. It is most likely messy, noisy and awkward. Those responding must step out of their comfort zone to offer their service for they are the hands and feet of Christ.

Archbishop Tobin has challenged us to get out of our comfort zones and head out to those “field hospitals.” He identifies the following priorities in our own backyard which he calls “doors”: “Strengthening marriage and family life; valuing the gifts of the youth and young adults in the community; welcoming the immigrant into the family of God; offering healing and hope in visiting the imprisoned; thinking globally, acting locally; and helping one another eliminate debt in a sign of unity and solidarity.” Inside each of these doors are our brothers and sisters in Christ that need our attention, warm hearts and healing.

So after a time of rest and rejuvenation, it is back out into the fields. As Christ reminds us, “The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest.” (Luke 10:2) As we go forward, let us get to know and love all families as we journey with them. Seek to be a role model and mentor to the young people. Reach out to the immigrant families with a smile, an acknowledgement and acceptance. Pray for those imprisoned to show God’s endless mercy. Promote an attitude of compassion for those feeling the pain of discrimination. Give of your surplus to those suffering from disasters or discouraged with debt. We are called to be community and think and act like Christ’s missionary disciples. That is our challenge; that is our charge.

God bless,

Kay Scoville

Director of Youth Ministry

Archdiocese of Indianapolis

1400 North Meridian Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367

Office of Catholic Education

Indy, IN 46202-2367