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

Vol. VI, No. 2
June 2005

Annual Excellence Award

Dolores Snyder, parish administrator of religious education at St. Paul Parish in Sellersburg, is the recipient of the tenth annual Excellence in Catechesis Award from the Office of Catholic Education. Mickey Lentz, OCE Executive Director, presented the award to Dolores at the annual spring meeting of faith formation administrators on May 3, at St. Agnes Church in Nashville. The award recognizes Dolores’ sixteen years of outstanding work in collaborative ministry, creative programming, and service for the greater good of faith formation at the parish, deanery, and archdiocesan levels. Dolores was nominated for the award by her pastor, Fr. Paul Richart, and the pastoral council and faith formation leadership at St. Paul.

Several family members, including Dolores’ daughter, three grandchildren, two brothers, and a sister-in-law were present to add an additional element of surprise to the award presentation. Jo Ann Kime, parish council chair, was also on hand to surprise Dolores. Fr. Richart was unable to attend the event but sent a letter expressing his appreciation for Dolores’ fine work. Dolores also received lavish praise from John Jacobi, President of the Association of Parish Administrators of Religious Education (APARE), for being a true inspiration for others in the faith formation ministry in the New Albany Deanery. As a mentor for several new administrators and a role model for many others, Dolores conveys “a strong work ethic with the smile of a great friend, and the warmth of an endearing grandma.”

Dolores is especially well known for her creative programming and hospitable leadership style. As RCIA coordinator Dolores has helped form and welcome an average of thirteen newcomers into the Church each year. She has developed several adult Bible study programs including one based on the half hour sitcoms of the Andy Griffith Show. Attentive to parishioners of all ages, Dolores enjoys finding new and creative ways to involve both parishioners and persons from the greater community in activities such as an ecumenical progressive dinner and senior citizen pen pal program. She delights in being close to the children in the day care program at St. Paul and the little ones who participate in vacation Bible school and other activities.

Dolores earned a bachelor’s degree in religious education from Spaulding University in Louisville, KY and has a Certificate in Pastoral Ministry from the Russell Institute. A firm believer in lifelong learning Dolores has taken part in hundreds of hours of continuing education through local and archdiocesan programs. She also provided leadership for St. Paul Parish in implementing the TEAMPLAN strategic planning process for faith formation programs.

Previous recipients of the Excellence in Catechesis Award include: Franciscan Sister Marie Schroeder, Shirley Dreyer, Mary Jo Thomas-Day, Ann Northam, Mary Lynn Cavanaugh, John Jacobi, Diane Burns, and Theresa Bedel. Harry Dudley, Associate Executive Director, Faith Formation, will re-present the award to Dolores and the St. Paul community at a weekend Mass in the near future.
SPICE Award and Congratulations

Selected Programs to Improve Catholic Education – SPICE - was begun ten years ago by the NCEA to bring together outstanding programs as an impetus for discussions in excellence and to help disseminate best practices to other schools. In 1997, the theme for SPICE was: “Providing for the Diverse Needs of Youth and their Families.” St. Thomas Aquinas School’s Resource Program was selected as featured program. This June, to celebrate the tenth anniversary of SPICE, past programs that have been maintained and that have continued to evaluate their effectiveness, are being re-visited. St. Thomas has been chosen again! Learning disabilities resource teacher, Patrice Payne, will travel to Boston College and participate with other Catholic educators in “Assessing Our Past, Defining Our Future,” the theme of this year’s SPICE conversation. Throughout the past ten years, programs and schools in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis have been represented seven times at SPICE. Selected programs are featured in booklets that are published by NCEA each year to highlight and disseminate innovative programs.

Annual Administrators’ Conference

On August 1 and 2, Catholic school principals, parish administrators of religious education, and parish youth ministers will gather at the French Lick Springs Resort for business meetings, prayer, and preparation for the 2005-2006 program year. The keynote speaker for this year’s conference will be Brother William Campbell, S.M., who is presently the assistant executive director of the elementary department of the National Catholic Educational Association. His focus will be on forming leaders for ministry in Catholic schools and parishes. Monsignor Joseph F. Schaedel, Vicar General, will be the main celebrant for the Eucharistic liturgy on August 2.

Lalanne Teachers “Learn, Lead, Serve”

In 2002, the Archdiocese optimistically began a relationship with the University of Dayton’s Center for Catholic Education when we became home to a Lalanne community. Lalanne teachers make a two-year commitment to teach in an urban Catholic school while living in community and pursuing professional and spiritual development. They apply to be accepted into the program and receive year-long mentoring as well as graduate education classes in the summer on the Dayton campus. The ultimate hope is that these teachers will want to remain after their two-year mission experience and continue to teach as regularly contracted faculty members. During the past three years we have been blessed with twelve Lalanne teachers assigned to our schools. Of the eight who finished their assignments so far, five have remained as teachers in their school. These young men and women have been so impressive that Executive Director, Mickey Lentz has expressed the wish to find more positions to fill with Lalanne teachers.

Archdiocesan School Consortium Update

At the beginning of this school year, Archbishop Daniel Buechlein announced the creation of a creative, hope-filled venture that will officially join together the center city Catholic Schools in a School Consortium. By working together the schools will enhance their educational ministry to the poorest neighborhoods of Indianapolis. He challenged us to develop a “vision of what could be” in order to be more efficient in our use of limited resources. A Transition Team has spent ten months working on the steps that need to be taken before the launching of the Consortium including: marketing, academic improvements, common budget, development guidelines and staffing considerations.

On August 4, 2005, Archbishop Daniel will offer Mass for all faculty and staff members of the Consortium Schools as they begin working together to accomplish the new vision. Mr. Tony Watt serves as volunteer director of the initiative.

NCEA Convention 2005 Highlights

Several administrators from the Office of Catholic Education and from schools in the archdiocese attended the 102nd Annual Convention of the National Catholic Educational Association March 29 – April 1 in Philadelphia. The theme was “We the People: Proclaiming Faith and Freedom.” The keynote speaker for the opening ceremonies was Archbishop John D. Foley, DD, President of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications in Rome who spoke on the convention theme. Archbishop Foley, originally from Philadelphia, is in charge of most communications emanating from the Vatican. With the death of Pope John Paul II immediately following the convention, Archbishop Foley became a familiar figure on U.S. television during the funeral and conclave. His Eminence, Cardinal Justin Rigali, JCD, Archbishop of Philadelphia was principal celebrant and homilist along with some 17 other bishops for the opening Eucharistic Liturgy on March 29. Other Keynotes were Cardinal Edward Egan of New York and Tim Shriver of Special Olympics. Hundreds of breakout sessions were offered. Presenters from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis included: David Gervasio of Roncalli High School and Connie Sherman from St. Mary’s Child Center. Brother Joseph Umile of Bishop Chatard High School, Bernie Paradise and Mickey Lentz of OCE chaired breakout sessions.

Note: The 2005 NCEA Convention was originally scheduled for Indianapolis instead of Philadelphia, but was pre-empted by the NCAA Women’s Final Four. The 2008 NCEA Convention will be in Indy.

In giving our children the things we didn’t have, let us remember to give them the things we had.
TCE Grant/Loan Competition is Heating Up

The Total Catholic Education Endowment (TCE Fund) was started by the late Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara to provide financial resources to support the professional training, education and staff development of Catholic educators and catechetical leaders in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. Group Project Grants and Individual Forgivable Educational Loans have been granted by the TCE Fund since 1995. Well over $1 million has been distributed. In past years we have been able to fund most of the grant and loan requests that met the funding criteria. Great good has come to our parishes and schools via this endowment.

On the last cycle of funding in March 2005, the TCE Committee of the Archdiocesan Education Commission had requests for a total of nearly $279,000 with over $151,000 needed in immediate funding. About $140-160,000 is available each year and about $84,000 was available to fund requests for this spring cycle. With some creative financing suggested by the committee, most of the requests were at least partially funded.

We believe that this signals that the competition for funding is heating up. In the past the OCE has been very liberal about deadlines and missing paperwork, etc. From now on, knowing that the committee will need to be more selective in awarding grants and loans, we will adhere very closely to the October 1 and March 1 deadlines. The staff will place only one call regarding items missing from applications for new or renewal funding. The committee will necessarily more closely scrutinize requests for meeting the funding criteria and the relationship of the request to the parish, school and archdiocesan education, faith formation and youth ministry missions.

The Year of the Eucharist: Celebrating the Body of Christ

In June 2004, Pope John Paul II declared that the months between October 2004 and October 2005 would be a Year of the Eucharist during which Catholics worldwide would be asked to study the Holy Father’s encyclical Ecclesia de Eucharistia: On the Eucharist and reflect more deeply individually and collectively on the meaning of the great gift of the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. On Sunday, June 12, Catholics from throughout the archdiocese will gather at Victory Field in Indianapolis for a special celebration as the body of Christ. Victory Field gates will open at 2:00 p.m. with prelude activities beginning at 2:30 and a solemn eucharistic procession that will arrive at the field at 3:00 p.m. Participants in the procession will include priests and seminarians of the archdiocese and representatives of those parishes that took part in the recently concluded Disciples in Mission program of Catholic evangelization. The Disciples in Mission participants will be recognized for the many outstanding evangelization initiatives that parishes have implemented since 2002. Children who have received their first Holy Communion during the 2005 Easter Season will also be part of the procession. A Ministry Fair will take place on the Victory field concourse and festive music will follow the service.

ECHO Faith Formation Leadership Program

In the summer of 2004, the University of Notre Dame began a special program to form new parish catechetical leaders to serve the faith formation ministry in dioceses and parishes throughout the United States utilizing the gifts and talents of new Notre Dame graduates. The program is called ECHO from the meaning of the Greek word catechesis – to echo or to resound. This summer the Archdiocese of Indianapolis will become a partner with the ECHO program in order to bring five graduate students into the archdiocese to serve as apprentice catechetical leaders in parishes. Other partner dioceses include Fort Wayne-South Bend in Indiana and Dallas and Fort Worth in Texas. The ECHO participants will serve parishes for two years during which they will live in community in diocesan-provided housing at Holy Trinity Parish in Indianapolis and receive a stipend for their work. During the summer months they will return to Notre Dame to earn graduate credits in theology. The ECHO Faith Formation Leadership Program seeks to provide new graduates with the opportunity to:

- Experience parish community life and service as the implement the Church’s catechetical mission in a variety of ministries with children, youth, and adults.
- Work closely with an experienced catechetical leader as a mentor in areas of personal and professional development while gaining hands-on experience in parish catechetical ministry.
- Pursue a Master’s Degree in theology from the University of Notre Dame through summer study on campus and distance learning courses during the year.
- Live in an intentional faith community with other apprentices.
- Grow in faith through participation in faith formation retreats, spiritual direction, and workshops in prayer, spirituality, and community living.

We look forward to welcoming our ECHO apprentices and will provide more information on their parish assignments in future issues of the Good Word.

Archdiocesan Education Commission

Farewells/ New Officers

On April 26, the Archdiocesan Education Commission gathered to say farewell to Milly Brehob, Fr. John Beitans, and Kevin Hoolahan. These members and officers are commended for all of their time, knowledge, and expertise while serving on the commission. At the same meeting, new officers were elected to the AEC: President, Bill Sylvester; Vice President, Rose Milto; Secretary, Roger Trahin.

Harry Dudley Elected to National Board

In April, at the annual meeting of the National Conference for Catechetical Leadership in Louisville, KY, Dr. Harry Dudley, Associate Executive Director, Faith Formation, was elected to a three-year term on the organization’s board of directors. Prior to his service on the board, Harry was a diocesan representative to the NCCL Representative Council. Congratulations to Harry and NCCL for their work in forming leaders for the catechetical ministry in the United States.

May 2005, Page 3

The Good Word
We recently retrieved our Website statistics for March 2005 and they are pretty amazing. For the month of March, the Archdiocesan Website had over 28,000 separate user sessions, over 174,000 separate “pageviews” and over 607,000 “hits.” Nearly 5 Gigabytes of information (that’s a lot!) was downloaded from the site. We also have specific OCE site statistics. As suspected, our constituents are generating much of the traffic on the archdiocesan site. In fact, for March, we had 59 percent of the “pageviews” or 103,000 out of the total of 174,000 for the month on the total www.archindy.org site. This means our constituents are using the site extensively. That is great news as we have a tremendous investment through Project EXCEED in making the site user-friendly. It is becoming a great communication tool as we link our weekly OCE-notes, calendars, professional development notices and other communications to items now posted on the site. Please keep telling us what will help you use the site. See it at: www.archindy.org/ocene/.

Our Students Continue to Perform on the ISTEP+

Students in grades 3 through 10 in all Catholic schools in the archdiocese took the Indiana Statewide Test of Educational Progress (ISTEP+) in September 2004. We reported the results for grades 3, 6 and 8 in the January Good Word. Scores for grades 4, 5, 9 and 10 were not released until March because the passing scores had to be aligned to the new Indiana Academic Standards. We now have results for 13,593 students in grades 3 through 10. Shown in the chart below is the percentage of students at each grade level who passed both the language arts/English and mathematics parts of the ISTEP+ test compared to the total state average and the average for students in all other non-public schools in the state that take the tests. We have excluded our archdiocesan scores from the totals for public and non-public schools for comparison purposes. The percentage of students passing both parts of the ISTEP+ test in the archdiocese ranges from 80 percent at grade 3 to 88 percent at the grades 9 and 10. A positive trend continues this year in our students’ scores – the percentage of students passing the test improves as they move up from one grade to the next. Simply stated, the longer students are in our archdiocesan Catholic schools, the greater the improvement in student performance.

OCE Web Stats

We recently retrieved our Website statistics for March 2005 and they are pretty amazing. For the month of March, the Archdiocesan Website had over 28,000 separate user sessions, over 174,000 separate “pageviews” and over 607,000 "hits." Nearly 5 Gigabytes of information (that's a lot!) was downloaded from the site. We also have specific OCE site statistics. As suspected, our constituents are generating much of the traffic on the archdiocesan site. In fact, for March, we had 59 percent of the "pageviews" or 103,000 out of the total of 174,000 for the month on the total www.archindy.org site. This means our constituents are using the site extensively. That is great news as we have a tremendous investment through Project EXCEED in making the site user-friendly. It is becoming a great communication tool as we link our weekly OCE-notes, calendars, professional development notices and other communications to items now posted on the site. Please keep telling us what will help you use the site. See it at: www.archindy.org/ocene/.

Project EXCEED Transition

School year 2005-2006 will be a transition year for Project EXCEED. Project EXCEED is our $15 million school improvement process now in its third year, sponsored by the Lilly Endowment Inc., and other generous corporate and individual donors. As the grant funding comes to an end, decisions need to be made about the continuance of programs and especially about the sustaining and replicating the most effective programs throughout the entire archdiocese. A group of Project EXCEED recipients worked together on “Transition Day,” April 15, at the Primo Banquet Hall. Led by John Kirby, consultant from Excelleration, Inc., participants began to identify common elements of EXCEED programs and to think about ways to “package” effective programs for future use and possible future funding. This is just the beginning of the efforts that will need to be taken to sustain and replicate the best of Project EXCEED, which has some 72 separate program elements. The Project is beginning to show major effects in instructional improvement in pilot schools, including many of our urban and center city schools. There is now a large cadre of professional educators trained in various educational best practices who will be charged with disseminating these practices to all of our Catholic schools in the next few years.

Changes at Annunciation Parish, Brazil

Annunciation School in Brazil will become an Early Childhood Education Center next year. The center will continue to offer their very successful pre-school and kindergarten programs in the school facility. The remaining grades at the school will be phased out at the end of the current school year.

2005 Graduates

Joyfully Praise God
Encourage One Another
Strive for Maturity in Christ
Use Your Gifts to Serve
Share the Good News

God Bless to All!
Happy Retirement!

Ladies of leisure, probably not with all of the hobbies and plans that you’ve got!
You’ll be just as active as ever before—except that you’ll now be enjoying life more!

We extend our best wishes and prayers to these 2005 retirees:

**Maggie McClain**, Principal, St. Malachy School, Brownsburg
Maggie began teaching at St. Malachy School in 1986. She has been principal for the past seven years. Her dedication to the school and parish community will be sorely missed as she and her husband move to their new farm in Illinois.

**Patricia Ladd**, ARE, St. Rita Parish, Indianapolis
Pat served as principal of St. Rita Catholic School and for the past several years has been the administrator of religious education.

**Barbara Welch**, DRE at St. Susanna Parish, Plainfield
Barbara has had many years of service as a director of religious education and teacher in archdiocesan schools and parishes. For the past eight years, Barbara has been the dynamic Director of Religious Education at St. Susanna Parish in Plainfield.

**Gloria Bier**, CRE at St. Paul Catholic Center, Bloomington
For 26 years, Gloria has served St. Paul Catholic Center on the campus of Indiana University as coordinator of faith formation. Her gentle manner and ability to meet a variety of ministry needs in an active and diverse college community have been deeply appreciated.

**Sr. Mary Carol Messmer, OSB**, Pastoral Associate at St. John Parish, Starlight
Sr. Mary Carol has faithfully served the parish of St. John the Baptist in Starlight for 35 years. She was the principal of St. John School, and when it closed in 1969 she stayed on as pastoral associate and DRE. Before 1969, Sr. Mary Carol was a teacher in Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and the Diocese of Evansville. Sr. Mary Carol will return to Our Lady of Grace Monastery, Beech Grove.

**Sr. Mildred Wannemuehler, OSB**, PLC at St. Agnes, Nashville
Sr. Mildred has been pastoral associate and parish life coordinator for St. Agnes Parish in Nashville since 1986. Sr. Mildred was a teacher in both the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and the Diocese of Evansville. She is also a founding member of the Archdiocesan Initiation Committee. Sr. Mildred will return to Our Lady of Grace Monastery and plans to continue her ministry on a much smaller scale.

**Margaret Otte**, Office Manager, OCE
Margaret has been an administrative assistant and office manager for the Office of Catholic Education for 13 years. She was also an administrative assistant at St. Malachy School for seven years and a teacher at St. Michael School in Indianapolis for seven years. Margaret has managed many important projects for OCE especially in the area of personnel performance. Her knowledge and assistance have made many things possible for the entire OCE staff.

**Karen Oddi**, Associate Director, Faith Formation, OCE
Karen has been actively involved in parish ministry and archdiocesan leadership since 1979, when she began her career as a coordinator of religious education at St. Barnabas Parish, Indianapolis. She is concluding her ninth year as the associate director, faith formation and her second year as evangelization coordinator. In the future Karen plans to be involved in the work of OCE on a much smaller scale.

**Carole Williams**, Associate Director, Schools, OCE
Carole has served the ministry of Catholic education as the principal of Christ the King School in Indianapolis and as Associate Director of Schools for Administrative Personnel and Professional Development. Following nine years with the archdiocese, Carole and her husband will relocate to Florida.

Our prayers and good wishes also go out to everyone who is in a time of transition this spring.
The dictionary has various definitions for the word, “committed” or “commitment.” In fact, I was surprised to find that the emphasis is more on the negative than the positive. For example, it could mean to commit a crime, to surrender, or even to put someone into prison. Yet my own experience of working with countless persons of commitment puts the meaning of the word in a very positive light.

At the end of this program year, I think it is only fitting to recognize those who have committed themselves to the ministry of Catholic education in its broadest sense – persons who have worked and will continue to work in the Church – and recognize them for the energy, enthusiasm, and passion for teaching and administration they have demonstrated in their service over the years.

Proverbs says: “For want of leadership a people perishes; safety lies in many advisers.” So, I recognize those of you who have led us and who have nurtured your own potential to be effective leaders. I acknowledge clergy, teachers, administrators and ministers who give so freely and willingly of time, talent and treasure – you who work so hard among us as leaders in the Lord.

I especially want to acknowledge those leaders who are leaving their positions. I thank you for your dedication and wish you God's Speed. You will be missed. I especially want to name those leaving the Office of Catholic Education: Carole Williams, Karen Oddi and Margaret Otte. Words cannot express my gratitude for your service, passion and strength. You have truly made a difference! May God bless you and give you great happiness. You have been "gift" to us.

True leaders are servants. Remember this as you go forward. May we as leaders daily remember the example of Jesus, the model Servant Leader.

God bless,
Mickey

Office of Catholic Education
Archdiocese of Indianapolis
P.O. Box 1410
Indianapolis, IN 46206-1410