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. VII, No. 2
May 2006

SPECIAL BONUS ISSUE

Project EXCEED Executive Summary Enclosed

Enclosed with this issue of the Good Word from the Office of Catholic Education is the Executive Summary of Project EXCEED 2006, at the end of four years. Project EXCEED has been funded by a $10 million challenge grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. and matching donations and grants from other generous donors totaling over $8.8 million. The report details the success of the program in significantly improving student achievement. School officials and school supporters need to know about the project’s accomplishments as plans are being made for “sustaining and replicating” successful elements of Project EXCEED in all areas of the archdiocese. A cadre of highly trained archdiocesan educators is ready to help schools implement best practices in Catholic education with sustaining funding expected from the Legacy for Our Mission: For Our Children and the Future capital stewardship campaign. Additional copies of the report are available upon request.

National Article on Archdiocesan Blue Ribbon Schools

Also, enclosed with this issue of the Good Word from the Office of Catholic Education is a reprint of an article that appears in the April/May 2006 edition of Momentum, the Official Journal of the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA). Nearly every Catholic school in the country receives copies of this magazine which features, "24 Blue Ribbons for 19 Schools: Archdiocese of Indianapolis Schools Set Blue Ribbon Record.” Reprints of the Article were also circulated at the NCEA National Convention in Atlanta, in April. Congratulations once again to our Blue Ribbon Schools. Additional copies are available upon request.

Joe Connelly, Youth Minister at St. Monica, Indianapolis, also has an impressive article in this issue entitled “Lay Vocations: Another Way of Life in the Church.” This is posted at www.archindy.org/oce/, Items of Interest.

Congratulations Class of 2006!

Our ten Catholic High Schools will award diplomas to 1250 students in commencement ceremonies over the next few weeks. About 95 percent of the graduates will attend college.

Congratulations to the Class of 2006 and may God richly bless all your future endeavors.
Excellence in Catechesis Award 2006

This year’s Excellence in the Ministry of Catechesis award was presented at the Faith Formation Spring Business meeting at St. Bartholomew, Columbus on Thursday, May 11, 2006.

Since 1996, the Office of Catholic Education has presented the Excellence in the Ministry of Catechesis award to an outstanding parish administrator of religious education to recognize and support the significant role of the professional catechetical administrators in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. The award affirms the gifts and talents of one special administrator each year. The selection committee – composed of a pastor, OCE staff and a parish administrator of religious education – reviews nominations using a blind screening process to assure impartiality.

Nominees need to show evidence of the following criteria:

- Affirming the importance of life-long faith formation in programming for parish religious education.
- Demonstrating exceptional creativity or flexibility (i.e. offers more options) in program design and implementation.
- Working for the greater good of the ministry and reaching out to and cooperating with others at the parish, archdiocesan, deanery and other levels.
- Being a mentor to colleagues in religious education/faith formation.

For the first time ever, the award was given posthumously. The late William “Bill” Hunn, former DRE of Sacred Heart Parish in Jeffersonville, IN was this year’s recipient. The entire parish staff accompanied Bill’s wife, Lois, as she came to receive the award.

The many colleagues and parishioners who nominated Bill noted that he:

...was always “sharpening the saw,” taking whatever online or live courses or workshops he could in order to update his “old Masters degree;”

...created multiple programs for adults such as a “soup and psalms” program and an adult faith formation committee to create and implement more ideas;

...was a real “companion on the journey” to others in catechetical ministry – including those around the world who took the online courses he facilitated for the University of Dayton;

...was a “father figure” and a “loving brother” to all.

His pastor, Fr Tom Clegg, stated that despite great obstacles after Bill’s death, “...we have not lost any programming. We continue to do all the things that we did before because, much like Jesus, Bill trained, taught and empowered catechists to follow after him. After all, as he was dying from leukemia, he told me to tell everyone: “Be good! Keep the Faith and carry on!”

ECHO: Catechetical Leadership Program

ECHO is a two-year service program in faith formation leadership sponsored by the Institute for Church Life at the University of Notre Dame. The Archdiocese of Indianapolis became a partner in this program beginning with the 2005-2006 religious education program year. The five apprentices assigned to the archdiocese are working in the following parishes with their DRE mentors during their two-year commitment to ECHO.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Apprentices</th>
<th>Parish</th>
<th>Mentor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kenna Rae Brewer</td>
<td>St. Monica, Indianapolis</td>
<td>Mary Jo Thomas Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Michael Ballintyn</td>
<td>St. Mark, Indianapolis</td>
<td>Mary Lynn Cavanaugh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexa Nicole Puscas</td>
<td>Our Lady of Lourdes, Indianapolis</td>
<td>Bev Hansberry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kyle Ried Bertoli</td>
<td>Christ the King, Indianapolis</td>
<td>Cindy Flaten</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rose Marie Beauclair</td>
<td>St. Malachy, Brownsburg</td>
<td>Diane Burns</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The parishes and the mentors will miss their apprentices during the summer but look forward to welcoming them back in August. If you would like to learn more about the Notre Dame ECHO program, visit the website at: http://www.nd.edu/~cci/faith/ or contact Harry Dudley in The Office of Catholic Education.
Value-Added Assessment: Expecting and Achieving Gains in Student Achievement

The archdiocese has used the Terra Nova (CTB McGraw-Hill) standardized test to assess student gains in language, mathematics and reading to measure the success of TAP and other EXCEED initiatives. About 5,000 students in 22 schools were tested in grades 2 through 9 over a three-year period. The test results have been used to determine if student achievement is changing at the student, teacher, school, and archdiocesan (district) level.

Method: The archdiocese has compared test results from year-to-year using the Value-added Model developed by Dr. Bill Sanders and now administered by the SAS® EVAAS® Institute in North Carolina. The assumption of this model is that for a student to show growth, the student must achieve a “gain score” that is greater than one year’s growth.

Findings: For illustration purposes only, a district gain and standard error is displayed from the base year 2001-2002 in each of the three subject areas tested – language, mathematics, and reading. Then, a standard score is computed from three years of test data. Shown in Figure 1 are the value-added scores for language (4), mathematics (5), and reading (3). The value-added rubric score was developed by the Milken Family Foundation to report the Sanders Value-Added standard score.

Figure 1. District Report 2004 – All Grades/Subject Areas

![Figure 1. District Report 2004 – All Grades/Subject Areas](image)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Archdiocese of Indianapolis Terra Nova Value-Added District Report</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Year</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001-02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002-03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003-04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001-02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002-03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003-04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001-02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002-03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003-04</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Milken Rubric for Value-Added Scores

- **Score of 1** = The district gain is 2 standard errors below the reference gain.
- **Score of 2** = The district gain is 1 standard error below the reference gain.
- **Score of 3** = The district gain is neither 1 standard error above or below the reference gain.
- **Score of 4** = The district gain is 1 standard error above the reference gain.
- **Score of 5** = The district gain is 2 standard errors above the reference gain.

The results from the value-added report are very encouraging because significant gains were achieved in both language and mathematics. In the value-added results, student achievement gains in both language and mathematics are greater than the expected one-year’s growth. In mathematics, it is actually twice what would be expected. For reading, the score is below being a value-added gain by just -0.1 on the standard score, yielding a score of 3 according to the rubric.

Conclusion: The Value-added Model of assessing test data allows schools to change the way student achievement is compared. In the past, one student’s scores were compared with another, not considering whether the student’s achievement was improving – whether he/she was moving forward in learning. Schools should expect all students to achieve more than a year’s growth each year. If they do, then educators can say that educational value has been added. The archdiocese is in the process of moving from the Terre Nova to ISTEP+ (now that we test all grades 3 through 10), and this report should be available soon.


---

The Multiplier is Out! Our High Schools Are In!

Good news times two! On Monday morning, May 1, 2006, the Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) Board of Directors unanimously (16-0) defeated the so-called “multiplier proposal”. In addition, the board also voted to allow a private school representative to sit on the IHSAA Board for the first time by a 13-3 vote. This is a "win-win" situation for Catholic schools and for all non-public schools in Indiana.

The multiplier, proposed by members of an athletic conference representing small high schools, would have “multiplied” each non-public high school student times 1.5, thus causing many non-public schools to play in a higher athletic class against (supposedly) superior teams from larger schools. Most of the larger public schools opposed the proposal from the start, but it was nice to see it rejected unanimously by the IHSAA Board. Commissioner Blake Ress was also instrumental in opposing the proposal.

Probably more important than the defeat of the multiplier is the fact that, out of this struggle, non-public schools have finally gained representation on the IHSAA Board as they should as full members of the Association. Proposals to add this representation have been defeated by the board in the past, so this is, indeed, a victory. Now, issues such as the multiplier and other proposals that would hurt our schools can be addressed head-on at the board level.

Many thanks to: Chuck Weisenbach, Joe Hollowell, Dave Toner, Dave Worland, Terry Fox, Jerry Bomholt and others involved from our schools; Steve Koers, Archdiocesan Attorney; and, Derek Redelman, Executive Director, INPEA, for their attention to these important issues.

---

May 2006, Page 2

The Good Word
Recognizing Our Dedicated Teachers

In February 2006, some 120 teachers in the Archdiocese were recognized for their many years of service by Archbishop Daniel Buechlein, OSB, in a special ceremony. The ceremony was held in conjunction with a special principals’ inservice that featured Fr. Ron Nuzzi, Director of the ACE Leadership Program at the University of Notre Dame, speaking on “Catholic Education and Leadership in the 21st Century.”

We congratulate and honor the following educators for their years of dedicated service to Catholic Education:

40+ Years of Service
- Marilyn Bardon (41)
- Jill McCormick (41)
- Judy Nichols (40)
- Richard Powell (40)
- Jim Ratliff (40)
- Dorothy Schoettelkotte (42)

35+ Years of Service
- Elaine Alhand (35)
- Sheryl Bevan (35)
- John Hornberger (39)
- Sr. Mary Ann Stewart, SP (35)

30+ Years of Service
- Mike Amrhein (34)
- Judy Birge (31)
- Mary Briscoe (33)
- Melinda Bundy (31)
- Terry Clemen (32)
- Diane Flora (34)
- Sr. Mary Sue Freiburger, OSB (32)
- Donna Friesel (31)
- Sandra Herald (31)
- Sr. Heidi Krack, OSB (32)
- Carol Read (33)
- Martha Render (31)
- Dan "Doc" Wellman (31)

35 Years of Service
- (25 Years Continued)
- (15 Years Continued)
- (10 Years of Service)
- Beatles
- Beach Boys
- Bob Dylan
- Bruce Springsteen
- Elvis Presley
- Frank Sinatra
- Johnny Cash
- Michael Jackson
- The Rolling Stones
- Woodstock

Mike Amrhein, principal of Immaculate Heart of Mary School in Indianapolis, will travel to China in June. She will present “Maximizing Teacher Leadership in an Organized School” at the China-U.S. Educational Leadership Conference in Beijing. Approximately sixty public and private school educators from the United States will attend the conference, which is supported by the National Associations of Elementary and Secondary School Principals and several other educational organizations. Congratulations and safe travel, Annette!
A Promise to Keep

On April 27, over 400 high school Peer Mentors from the Archdiocese “A Promise to Keep” (APTK) chastity program were honored at a luncheon with Archbishop Daniel Buechlein OSB, at the Archbishop O’Meara Catholic Center. The APTK program was expanded this year to include Seton Catholic High School in Richmond, and seven mentors from Seton, the newest interparochial high school in the archdiocese, attended the luncheon. These students have presented APTK programs to middle school students in the Catholic elementary schools of the Connersville Deanery. During 2005-2006 throughout the archdiocese, nearly 5000 elementary grade students in Catholic schools and faith formation programs received a faith-based abstinence until marriage message from the high school Peer Mentors. The APTK program is supported by the archdiocese and St. Vincent Hospitals, Indianapolis, and has received grants this year from Our Sunday Visitor Foundation and an anonymous Catholic foundation. The grants have supported the production of new teaching materials and videos as well as a professional evaluation of the program.

Katrina Recovery Apostolate

“Behold I Make ALL Things New” Revelation 21:5

Many high school youth think of Spring Break as a time to go to the beach. Adults who work with youth may look forward to some relaxation and quality time with family and friends. Who would want to spend Spring Break doing manual labor by day and taking cold showers and sleeping on a gym floor by night? Ninety high school youth and twenty volunteer Catholic school teachers, campus and youth ministers felt the call to service and responded by spending the week of April 2-8, 2006 in Biloxi, Mississippi assisting with continuing hurricane Katrina clean-up efforts.

The group was led by John Hollowell, second-year seminarian at St. Meinrad School of Theology, and Fr. Jonathan Meyer, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries in the Office of Catholic Education. The trip was funded by a $25,000 grant from the archdiocese. Ten teams traveled in 12-passenger vans to Biloxi. The gymnasium at Resurrection Catholic High School in Pascagoula, MS became their home. From this simple place, teams received work assignments every morning after prayers and breakfast. Every day was a new adventure as the youth carried out a variety of tasks including: painting, tearing down drywall, building shelves, hanging doors, scrubbing mold from walls, cutting fallen trees and combing beaches. Lunch consisted of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, fruit and drinks; no one went hungry. The afternoons brought more work before teams returned to the school for showers, Mass, free time and dinner.

After sundown, conversations about the “Son” began. The Gospel at each Mass connected to the Gospel message lived out that day through service. The goal of the trip was to help youth see the connection between their service and the Gospel message – to see Christ in the work and to be Christ when they worked. The Eucharist was essential. Fr. Meyer stated, “When we receive the Eucharist, Christ dwells in us and we are able to do His work. When others receive the Eucharist we are called to recognize Christ in them. Thus, our work is the work of Christ to the body of Christ.” The youth took turns each night maintaining adoration of the Eucharist. They worked during the day to physically make a difference and prayed throughout the night to make a spiritual difference.

What did this spiritual difference bring about? …..HOPE! One local resident said, “I have worked and worked to rebuild my home, but the task seems as though it will never be completed. Every night I go to bed surrounded by the devastation, and every morning it is still there, staring me in the face. It gets you down when you work and work and work, but don’t see the end in sight. With the work the high schoolers have done, I now see hope!”

This summer, Youth and Young Adult Ministries will sponsor another group to Mississippi to continue assisting those in need. The “Summer Mission Trip” is scheduled for July 23-28, 2006. May God bless the efforts of all these young people and may their witness bring about a change of heart in countless individuals.
When Pope John Paul II visited with educators during his 1987 visit to the United States, he called Catholic education a great "Gift to the Church – a great Gift to the Nation." Nearly 20 years later, this message still rings true. Catholic schools do make a difference.

I have chosen some quotes from Pope John Paul from this memorable meeting. He said, “Catholic schools in the U.S. have always enjoyed a reputation for academic excellence and community service.” These are, indeed, hallmarks, especially for those of us actively engaged in school ministry for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. We are making a difference in the lives of many as we answer God's call for the Church in central and southern Indiana.

The late pontiff also reminded educators that “Jesus shares with you his teaching ministry ...if you continue to be faithful to this work of the Church, you will be shaping a peaceful, just and faith-filled world for the future.” He reminded those in attendance that Catholic educators introduce students to a powerful experience of community and a serious concern for social justice.

Pope John Paul closed his remarks, offering this wish for all: “This is my hope, this is my prayer: That you will be totally open to Christ. That he will give you an ever greater love for your work and your commitment to your vocation as Catholic educators. Please continue to be faithful to this ministry. God's children need you.”

I thank God for the opportunity to serve in this wonderful ministry, and I thank Him every day for the outstanding educators who are ministering in our schools. Because of them, we are making a difference.

God bless,

Annette “Mickey” Lentz
Executive Director, Catholic Education and Faith Formation