Archdiocesan Youth Council (AYC)

It is with great pride that the Archdiocesan Youth Council (AYC) welcomes nine new members. But, it is bittersweet that we must also say good-bye to nine graduating high school seniors. The leadership they have shown over these past couple of years leaves us hopeful and excited about their future. We are equally enthusiastic about this upcoming year with the new and returning members of AYC.

We recently gathered the new, returning and exiting members of the AYC to participate in a weekend retreat on April 21-22, 2012 at the Mother of the Redeemer Retreat Center in Bloomington. Throughout the weekend, the youth participated in activities and discussions where they learned more about themselves, their strengths, and what it means to work as a team. By the conclusion of the retreat, these teens were instrumental in the planning of the next Indianapolis Catholic Youth Conference (ICYC).

With monthly meetings, several events, an Adult Advisory Team consisting of six youth ministers and three archdiocesan staff members, and most importantly, a team of youth eager to serve as leaders in their schools, parishes and diocese; this is starting off to be a great year for the AYC!

---

A Promise to Keep: God’s Gift of Human Sexuality

On April 23, 2012, Bishop Coyne hosted the annual “A Promise to Keep” (APTK) luncheon at the O’Meara Catholic Center to honor the high school students who served as peer mentors in the chastity program this year. The luncheon provides an opportunity each spring to affirm the leadership of these high school students. While only about 225 peer mentors were able to attend, a total of 389 mentors taught the APTK lessons to approximately 4100 younger adolescents in Catholic schools and parish programs during 2011-12.

Our newest parish APTK program is under the leadership of Paulette Davis and Lori Lewis at St. Paul Parish in Greencastle. Thirteen students from three different Putnam County high schools have committed to learn several APTK lessons to share with younger peers in religious education programs.

In the parable of the mustard seed, we are reminded that the smallest of seeds do indeed flourish and grow. In sum, these teens said that coming together to work on APTK lessons has helped to increase their knowledge, strength and courage to say “no” when harmful situations arise. They also said it was important to them to stay true to what they teach in the classroom, so they act in a way that is consistent with what they teach and witness in the APTK program.

Our objective is to have more parish-based programs like these for students who do not attend Catholic schools. If you are interested in implementing APTK call or e-mail Margaret Hendricks for additional information: mhendricks@archindy.org, 236-1478 or (800) 382-9836, ext. 1478.
May 2012 Page 2

Celebrating Catholic School Values 2012

With the introduction of the new Indiana Tax Credit Scholarships, there will be some changes in the format of the annual Celebrating Catholic School Values: Scholarship and Career Achievement Awards event (CCSV) for 2012. The event is scheduled for October 30, 2012 at a place to be announced, so please mark your calendars now. It will be a reception and program rather than a dinner and many of the event tickets will be given as rewards for giving. We are seeking a named sponsor for the event.

We will honor two alumni for their Career Achievements and one person for Community Service accomplishments. The program will feature testimonials about Catholic Schools.

A “virtual committee” of well-known community leaders will send out letters about CCSV. The regular volunteer sponsorship/development committee will follow-up on these letters and solicit additional gifts as well. There will be increased donor recognition in The Criterion, online and in other newspapers as well as direct responses to donors from the schools. Donors of $5,000 or more will be invited to a special dinner with the Bishop or Archbishop after the event.

We started solicitation early in April this year with a series of seven regional breakfasts/lunches with guests invited by their parishes and schools. Attendees received literature about our Catholic schools and were told about the Tax Credit Scholarships. They learned that they could give $1,000 to a Catholic school that they designate for as little as $150 out-of-pocket after receiving a 50 percent state tax deduction and their regular federal tax deduction. And, that $1,000 gift could potentially fund scholarships for entering kindergartners or first graders through the CHOICE Trust Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO) that could possibly make a qualifying child eligible for Indiana School Vouchers for the next 12 years of school – a benefit of $60,000 or more! So far, some $114,000 has been realized from the breakfasts alone. To learn more, contact Rosemary O’Brien in the Office of Stewardship and Development, robrien@archindy.org 236-1568 or (800)382-9836, ext. 1568.

The Indiana Tax Credit Scholarships, the Indiana School Vouchers and the CCSV event present an unprecedented opportunity to help eligible students attend Catholic schools of their choice with significant benefits for the donor.

2011-2012 Sacrament of Confirmation

As one of the sacraments of Christian initiation, the Sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace. Approximately 2700 teens from 107 parishes (40 parishes from the Indianapolis area and 69 from surrounding deanery parishes) received the Sacrament of Confirmation this academic year. Confirmations took place in 43 separate Masses; with 13 celebrated last Fall, and the remaining 30 this Spring. The Sacrament of Confirmation was celebrated at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, the mother Church of the Archdiocese, in Downtown Indianapolis as well as at parishes in the surrounding deaneries. Congratulations to all the recently Confirmed and to their family and friends!

OCE was thrilled to host the third annual “Golf Fore Faith” outing at Crooked Stick Golf Club in Carmel on Monday, May 14, 2012. The outing is a way to build community and to bring people together for golf, laughter and camaraderie and raise important funds for “A Promise to Keep.” Any opportunity to play Crooked Stick is always unique, but especially this year as Crooked Stick is the home of the 2012 BMW Championship! The course will host the top 70 players in the world in September. Many thanks to the 21 teams who registered for the event. Information will be forthcoming for the 2013 Golf Fore Faith outing.

Congratulations to the Class of 2012!

During May and June 789 seniors graduated from seven interparochial high schools in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis

BISHOP CHATARD 178
CARDINAL RITTER 124
FR. THOMAS SCECINA MEMORIAL 76
RONCALLI 273
OUR LADY OF PROVIDENCE 100
SETON CATHOLIC 20
SHAWE MEMORIAL 18

Four private high schools in the diocese will have approximately 571 additional graduates this spring

BREBEUF JESUIT PREPARATORY 201
CATHEDRAL 315
OLDENBURG ACADEMY 42
PROVIDENCE CRISTO REY 13

Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and your plans will succeed. (Proverbs 16:3)
On March 3 at the Marten House Hotel and Conference Center in Indianapolis, the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, hosted the 13th annual SPRED Dinner Dance. Over 250 SPRED friends and catechists enjoyed a fun-filled evening of dining, dancing and fellowship. The annual dinner dance is a celebration of abilities—an evening to rejoice in the different gifts God has given each one of us.

We are so thankful for our Special Friends, through whom we are constantly reminded of the beauty and joy of life, and for our wonderful Catechists who give abundantly of their time, talent and treasure to help build these communities of faith in parishes throughout Central and Southern Indiana.

~ SCHOOL BUS CLARIFICATION ~
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS STUDENTS WIN!

At the end of the 2011-12 session of the Indiana Legislature, non-public school students and their families could savor a significant victory in the area of school transportation.

Omnibus Bill, HB 1376, among other provisions, requires a public school corporation to deliver our students "...to a point from which the child can walk to and from the non-public school." Last year parents at St. Lawrence and St. Simon Schools, Indianapolis, along with the archdiocese sued MSD Lawrence Township and lost in two court cases on this issue at great effort and expense. Those rulings basically set the point where the students were let off anywhere the public school wanted to put it. The rulings effectively ended public school busing to the two schools involved by allowing the drop-off points to be at middle schools miles away from the Catholic schools and indicating that the public school had no obligation to provide shuttles to our schools from these points.

In an interpretation of the new law, archdiocesan attorney Jay Mercer states: "If a private school student lives along a regular bus route of the school district then the student has the right to be picked up and taken to a point within walking distance of the private school" (reasonable and safe is implied even though the word "safe" was removed from the law because of concerns that a legal standard would be established). Some public schools earlier interpreted that the "regular route" where the child lived had to pass by the non-public school. This is not the case! The law applies to any and all children who reside on any regular school bus route and makes them eligible to be transported to and from the non-public school or "...to a point from which the child can walk to and from the non-public school."

This is a definite victory for Catholic and other non-government schools and has huge implications for public transportation in the future! If student transportation at your school would be affected by this clarification, we stand ready to help you get it changed for next year.

Many thanks to State Representative, Bob Behning, who carried the legislation on our behalf; to archdiocesan attorney Jay Mercer, for his arduous efforts and leadership on this issue, and to Glenn Tebbe of ICC and John Elcesser of INPEA, who lobbied for the bill on our behalf.

New Guidelines for Use of Social Media

Facebook, Twitter, YouTube are terms that have entered our vocabularies recently. Nearly everyone under thirty and many older persons as well interact daily with others through some form of social media. Both because of the ministry potential and the well-known downsides of such media, the Archdiocese of Indianapolis is for the first time addressing the use of social media.

The Office of Catholic Education is issuing Social Media Guidelines: Helpful Tips and Rules of the Road for Those Who Live and Minister in the Church in Central and Southern Indiana. Rather than a policy to govern the use of social media, this is simple guidance that will hopefully encourage the use of such media to spread the Gospel message more effectively and promote the "virtuous use" of technology. While the guidelines encourage ministry personnel to use social media, there is no mandate to do so; nor a ban against doing so—only guidance on best practices.

Much of the form and content of the Guidelines was suggested by a Taskforce on Social Media Networking during 2011-12 and approved by the archdiocese in March 2012. During May, hard copies as well as electronic versions of the Guidelines will be made available to all youth ministry directors, parish administrators of religious education and school administrators. Webinars will be held to explain the rationale and potential uses to each group.

The Social Media Guidelines section offers fifteen recommended guidelines for use of social media by ministry personnel in Catholic education and faith formation. As an example, guideline #1 recommends that ministry personnel create separate social media pages or profiles for personal and professional use. Guideline #10 recommends that a code of conduct be included and #13 references the "To be Safe and Secure" policy for the protection of children.

The document provides tips for effective social networking gleaned from many sources and also a section on "Virtuous Use and a Teachable Moment." For example, this section addresses "Prudent Use:" "Be it social media, blogging, texting, video games or doing work on the computer and internet, if virtual connectedness becomes an excessive need, it can isolate people from the real world…"

The Guidelines booklet ends with a list of resources ranging from the Holy See to the Intel Corporation and the Facebook website. It is hoped that the Guidelines will be a helpful resource to ministers in finding a path through the current landscape of social media.
This year’s Homeland Mission Project is being temporarily relocated to southern Indiana to help with the clean-up and rebuilding efforts due to the tornado devastation that occurred earlier this year. In past years, this mission week has taken place in the Indianapolis area, but we felt strongly that we needed to change locations this year to help an area of our archdiocese that is experiencing great need. On March 2, 2012, EF-4 tornadoes with winds of 166-200 mph hit the towns of Henryville and Chelsea and EF-3 tornadoes with winds of 136-165 mph hit the towns of Holton and New Pekin. While there are areas that are still cleaning up debris, the rebuilding has begun. Knowing that the rebuilding process could take years, it is our hope that we can help to alleviate some of the stress, grief, and suffering endured by those affected.

Homeland Mission will take place June 24-29, 2012 and will include 50 youth and 10 adult and young adult leaders from across the archdiocese. The group will be staying at Mount St. Francis Retreat Center in the New Albany Deanery. Throughout the mission week, the group will participate in daily Mass and also have time for fellowship, team-building activities and fun. Homeland Mission will consist of five work groups that will board vans and travel to a worksite that is in need of volunteers. Each day the groups will rotate so that their group has a chance to contribute in a variety of ways.

St. Francis of Assisi will be our Patron Saint for this week of service, and we are inspired by his words, “Start by doing what is necessary, then what is possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible.”

Please keep the Homeland Mission Project and the people of southern Indiana in your prayers!

Kathy Mears Takes Position with NCEA

Kathy Mears, Assistant Superintendent of Catholic Schools in the Office of Catholic Education, will become the new Executive Director for Elementary Education for the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) in Washington, DC. She will direct the NCEA Elementary Department that provides nationwide services for Catholic elementary education in the U.S.

A Catholic educator for 31 years, Kathy grew up on a farm in Illinois, graduated from Elmhurst College, earned her master’s degree from Butler University and has concentrated most of her career in special education. She started teaching in Illinois, then she and husband, Brian, moved to Indianapolis in 1982. Kathy taught at St. Gabriel, St. Malachy and Cardinal Ritter High School. She then became principal of St. Roch School.

In 2002 Kathy took a new position as Director of Learning Resources at OCE with Project EXCEED. She inaugurated Project REACH, a program to help teachers provide for special needs children in regular classrooms. The number of special needs students in Catholic schools greatly increased through this program.

As Assistant Superintendent for Catholic Schools she has continued to provide teacher professional development, has coordinated public policy initiatives and government programs including the introduction of state school vouchers and school accreditation process. She served as local chairperson of the National Catholic Education Association Convention and Exhibition in 2008 that brought over 11,000 Catholic educators to Indianapolis.

Kathy’s talents and skills will be missed at OCE and in our Catholic schools, but we are proud that she will be able to apply what she has done in Indianapolis on a much larger stage. May God bless her and her family during this transition.

Marriage Prep ~ Looking toward the Future

For almost two years the Office of Catholic Education has been responsible for administering and assessing preparation for the sacrament of Holy Matrimony as part of our responsibilities for sacramental preparation for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. This is an exciting and dynamic ministry which offers opportunities to share the Catholic faith at a critical time in people’s lives.

Just this month Associate Director for Evangelization and Family Catechesis Peg McEvoy completed a process with the archdiocesan Ad Hoc Committee on Marriage Preparation to help clarify priorities for the direction of marriage preparation in the archdiocese. The committee was made up of lay people and clergy who are actively involved in at least one component of marriage preparation which includes sponsor couples, catechesis, and natural family planning. Members represented parish, deanery and archdiocesan level programs from various parts of the archdiocese. The group looked at the guidance offered by our Bishops as well as solid new models that could be incorporated. From this work, a set of priorities and recommendations are being developed. Stay tuned as we continue through the process and these are adopted and implemented. With the help of the ad hoc committee, the future of marriage preparation in the archdiocese looks very bright!

"PIE, COFFEE & PARISH BUDGETS" EVENINGS PROVIDES FORMATION

On five evenings in five locations throughout the archdiocese business managers, bookkeepers, secretaries and others in the temporal ministries of our parishes received spiritual and professional development -- and pie! Director of Catechesis Ken Ogorek worked with Mike Witka of the Archdiocesan finance office to offer an evening for these parish staff members to focus on their work as ministry and reflect on how they connect with Jesus as Priest, Prophet and King.

Over 70 parish staff were affirmed in their role in support of our Church and challenged to make ongoing formation a priority for themselves as well as PAREs, youth ministers and principals. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ document “Co-workers in the Vineyard” makes clear that professional and spiritual development for those in ministry isn’t a luxury but rather a necessity that should be supported by parish practices and budgets.

Enthusiasm and appreciation were expressed by several participants who articulated clearly what ministry is, how their parish role is ministry and the support that all people in ministry need in order to be effective. In helping to provide these evenings for business managers, bookkeepers and additional parish staff, our Office of Catholic Education is seeing to it that people in ministry get their just desserts.

The Good Word
CERTIFICATION FOR THOSE WHO TEACH THE FAITH

"I have a teaching license but what about teaching religion?" "I'm a catechist in my parish program and I want to improve my efforts from one year to the next." "I'm a parent who wonders what kind of formation administrators in Catholic education receive on an ongoing basis."

Each of these questions or statements points to the need for our archdiocese to provide formation, certification and renewal for everyone involved with our public ministry in the field of Catholic education. An exciting new way of delivering basic catechetical certification is underway in the Office of Catholic Education. A guided reading and reflection process using the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults (USCCA) forms the doctrinal core of this convenient, accessible and relevant way to deliver essential content for those who teach and administer in our catechetical programs, youth ministry efforts and Catholic schools.

The document guiding this process is being finalized for full implementation starting this fall. Based on our experience in developing this approach, adults in Catholic education ministry will enjoy using the USCCA as well as the experience of reflecting on the truths of our Faith in light of their specific ministry. The fact that much of the work is done at a person's own pace in the location of her or his choosing is also seen a plus.

Basic certification will be followed by three-year cycles of renewal when adults in ministry will deepen their knowledge of the Faith and their effectiveness at accomplishing the specific work that is unique to their role in Catholic education. In forming, certifying and renewing everyone under the OCE umbrella we fulfill our leadership role to the benefit of individuals and families throughout southern and central Indiana. For information contact Ken Ogorek, Director of Catechesis kogorek@archindy.org.

EXCELLENCE IN CATECHESIS AWARD: SR. JOANN HUNT, OSB

This year's Excellence in Catechesis awardee is Sr. Joanne Hunt. Sr. Joann is retiring as DRE at Holy Spirit on the east side of Indianapolis after 22 years. Prior to arriving at Holy Spirit, Sr. Joann served as DRE at St. Christopher on Indianapolis’ west side for eight years after having served as a teacher and principal in our Catholic schools.

Sr. Joann is a conscientious and caring catechetical leader who values formation and certification of catechists — valuing people most of all as she serves parishioners in a variety of educational ministries. Among her many accomplishments are enhancing Hispanic ministry at Holy Spirit as well as serving persons with disabilities through the Special Religious Development (SPRED) program.

Sr. Joann's presence as a mentor and a wise and helpful guide will be missed as she starts another chapter in her life of prayer and work — of loving service to God's people in the prophetic ministry of Catholic education. We are pleased and proud that Sr. Joann Hunt's efforts are being acknowledged this year with the 2012 Excellence in Catechesis Award.

The Saint Theodora Excellence in Education Award Annual Luncheon

The Saint Theodora Excellence in Education Award was created to honor exemplary teachers in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. This year 14 teachers were nominated by principals, pastors and school parents as outstanding examples of what it means to be a Catholic school educator.

The award recognizes teachers, principals and pastors for their dedication and commitment to the Catholic teaching profession and to the students they serve. The teachers were honored at the annual Saint Theodora Guérin Excellence in Education luncheon hosted by Bishop Christopher Coyne.

Lisa Vogel, eighth grade teacher at St. Mary’s, North Vernon was selected to represent the archdiocese at the annual National Catholic Education Association Conference in Boston. Since Lisa began teaching math to the middle school students at St. Mary’s, 97 percent of the students she has taught have passed the math portion of ISTEP. An amazing 100 percent of Lisa’s students have passed the End of Course Assessment for Algebra I. Lisa attended St. Mary School, as well as did her grandmother, her siblings, and her husband. Now, Lisa’s children attend St. Mary’s. Lisa is a true example of the power of Catholic education!

Also honored at the annual luncheon was the Holy Name Home-School Association for creating outstanding programs to enhance the life of the school community. Holy Name Home-School Association chair Julie Beeson and Principal Gina Fleming accepted the award on behalf of the entire Holy Name school community.
Dear Friends,

I want to bring to your attention a resource many of you may already know more about than I do. It is called *YouCat*, short for *Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church*, and it has recently become the best-selling Catholic book in the world. Developed with the help of young people from many different nations, *YouCat* is written for high school students and young adults. It is a very readable contemporary expression of the entire Catholic faith as presented in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and is cross-referenced to it. The Holy See has endorsed it as an important catechetical tool for the upcoming Year of Faith. One of the primary reasons I believe *YouCat* received this endorsement is that it provides youth with easily accessible objective moral and religious criteria with which to bring the light of our Catholic faith into what John Paul II called the dramatic conflict between the “culture of death” and the “culture of life” (EN, 50). But perhaps the best description of the importance of *YouCat* may be found in the words of Pope Benedict himself, who wrote the book’s Forward: “This Catechism was not written to please you. It will not make life easy for you, because it demands of you a new life. It places before you the Gospel message as the “pearl of great value” (Mt 13:46) for which you must give everything… You need to know your faith with that same precision with which an IT specialist knows the inner workings of a computer… You need God’s help if your faith is not going to dry up like a dewdrop in the sun, if you want to resist the blandishments of consumerism, if your love is not to drown in pornography, if you are not going to betray the weak and leave the vulnerable helpless… Bring the undiminished fire of your love into this Church whose countenance has so often been disfigured by man…”

No wonder many consider *YouCat* to be a cornerstone of the New Evangelization! So as we prepare to align our education and formation plans with the theme of this Year of Faith in our schools, youth ministry, parish religious education and adult education programs (including RCIA), I strongly encourage taking advantage of this great resource. Like its big brother the full *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, it serves us as a faithful blueprint in helping us do our part in laying down the foundation upon which Christ can build His kingdom in the hearts, minds and souls of those we serve in our educational ministry.

God bless,

Harry A. Plummer
Executive Director

Office of Catholic Education
Archdiocese of Indianapolis
1400 North Meridian
Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367