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

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

The Office of Catholic Education (OCE) hosted the Fifth Annual Golf Fore Faith outing at Crooked Stick Golf Club (CSGC) on Monday, May 12th. Players were invited to participate in golf clinics with CSGC pros, enjoy a gourmet lunch, hors d’oeuvres and cocktails in the evening and play the course that hosted the top 70 golfers in the world at the 2012 BMW FedEx Championship.

Over the past five years, this outing has grown from an outing of only 17 teams and three corporate sponsors to this year’s field which consisted of 96 players and 11 corporate sponsors. Of the 24 teams registered for the event, 17 teams returned from last year!

In order to help sustain funding for the A Promise to Keep program, OCE is grateful for the opportunity to host an outing at CSGC. Not only is a golf outing a fun and effective way to raise money, it builds community and brings people together for laughter and fellowship. And laughter and camaraderie was plentiful at this event!

Fr. Pat Beidelman, Executive Director for the Secretariat of Spiritual Life and Worship, played with Fr. Paul Landwerlen, Fr. Randy Summers and Msgr. Mark Svarczkopf. When asked about the outing, Fr. Pat responded “It was a joy to spend the day as priests from four decades but who are all united in the same vocation. It was some quality time spent with brother priests and for a good cause, too!”

Mike Sheek, Director of Business Development with American Structurepoint says “the Golf Fore Faith event has become one of my favorite ‘must attend’ outings each year. Besides getting to play at a special course like Crooked Stick, the golf organizers do such a great job on the little things – wonderful, one of a kind gifts, great food and awesome prizes! The OCE and Crooked Stick teams do a fantastic job of making this one of the year’s best golf outings.”

Watch for details about the 2015 Golf Fore Faith outing! Related article about the APTK program on Page 4.

21st Century Community Learning Center Grant Awarded to the Archdiocese of Indianapolis

The Office of Catholic Education is thrilled to announce that the Archdiocese of Indianapolis was awarded the 21st Century Community Learning Center grant from the Indiana Department of Education this spring! This grant funds the afterschool and summer programming offered at the Mother Theodore Catholic Academy (MTCA) schools for the next four school years. Through this program, approximately 300 students receive math and language arts remediation, homework help and a variety of enrichment programs such as art, foreign language, and science. During the upcoming school year, the IMPACT Afterschool Program will partner with Cathedral High School and Marian University to bring in students as mentors for MTCA students.

A separate program has been developed for students in 6th–8th grade called Teen IMPACT. This program will provide smaller grouping and improved age-appropriate activities that encourage post-secondary preparation, leadership development, and social responsibility.

Great Spirits Summer Camp is also a part of the 21st Century Community Learning Center grant. During three weeks of camp, 100 students experience hands-on language arts, math, and science curriculum as well as art, physical fitness and field trips.

Contact Program Director Ashley Holloway-Watts at 317-236-1580 for more information and volunteer opportunities.
$5 Million is Goal for 2014
Celebrating Catholic School Values

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis Offices of Catholic Education and Stewardship and Development held seven advance breakfasts/lunches for potential donors around the archdiocese in May. Schools competed for donor-provided $200,000 in scholarship incentives recognizing levels of attendance and giving. An unprecedented 1500 people attended the events in advance of the 19th annual Celebrating Catholic School Values event to be held on November 5, 2014.

The purpose of the advance breakfast/lunch events was to raise awareness of the Indiana Tax Credit (SGO) Scholarships. Celebrating Catholic School Values event chairperson Mike McGinley and development chairperson Bob McKinney spoke at each event about five focus areas: 1) A $5 million goal; 2) Discovering the entire need; 3) Eliminating the $500 scholarship mindset; 4) Abundance vs. Scarcity outlook; and 5) Catholics Together. Last year a record $3.1 million was raised in 2013 after a record-breaking $1.1 million for 2012. By “discovering the entire need” this year, schools can use the SGO scholarships to cover more student financial aid by urging donors to give more than they otherwise might because of the 50 percent state tax credit and federal tax deduction. A donor can give $1000 in scholarships for as little as $325-360 “out-of-pocket” with the tax benefit. Donors are also asked to look beyond their own parish to Catholic schools with much greater need as “Catholics Together.” Major donors can also receive recognition from the archdiocese including a special dinner with Archbishop Tobin. The dinner for the 2013 donors will be held on June 17, 2014.

A family of five can be eligible for a tax credit scholarship with up to $102,000 in annual income. An income-qualified student on a tax credit scholarship for one year, may become eligible for an Indiana School Voucher (Choice Scholarship) the following year for up to $4800 toward tuition costs. As long as the family remains eligible, the student could receive a voucher for the next 12 years in Catholic school – a potential of $60,000 in financial aid from the state. For information about scholarships or event sponsorships, contact Rosemary O’Brien in the Office of Stewardship and Development at robrien@archindy.org.

Welcome Scott Williams, Youth Ministry Program Coordinator

Scott Williams has joined the Office of Catholic Education as the new youth ministry program coordinator. Scott grew up at SS. Francis and Clare Parish in Greenwood and attended Center Grove High School. He went on to graduate from IUPUI where he studied Public Affairs and Management. After graduation he went on a three-month pilgrimage walking across the country for the pro-life movement when he fell in love with our Catholic faith. Upon returning he began to volunteer in Youth Ministry. Scott worked in the public and private sectors until God called him to work full-time in ministry. He spent three years at St. Jude Catholic Church in Indianapolis as the Coordinator of Youth Ministry prior to joining OCE. Scott can be reached by email at swilliams@archindy.org or by calling 317-236-1442.

New Location … Spots Available!

Homeland Mission Project
Mission Experience for High School Students
June 22-27, 2014
Benedict Inn Retreat Center

- Involves service to the greater Indianapolis area.
- $260 (includes meals, lodging, and transportation)

To register go to: http://oce.archindy.org/youth-ministry/youth-events/homeland-mission.aspx

HAVE YOU VISITED THE OCE WEBSITE SINCE ITS REMODEL?

The Office of Catholic Education (OCE) continues to build onto a newly-renovated website launched a little over six months ago. This new website features a comprehensive menu system for all that is OCE including, but not limited to, Catholic Schools, OCE Staff, Faith Formation, Evangelization, Youth Ministry, A Promise Keep and Catechesis for those with Special Needs. Each page allows for quick access to the webpages for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis (www.archindy.org) using the menu bar at the top. The Homepage is designed for up-to-date information in news and events, job openings and public resources. Past issues of The Good Word can even be viewed directly from the homepage using the box on the lower left side of the page below the menu. If you have not done so already, please visit us at http://oce.archindy.org.
HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY ALLIANCE
On April 24, 2014, Youth Ministry in the Office of Catholic Education hosted a gathering of Youth Ministers, High School Campus Ministers, and High School Chaplains called the High School Ministry Alliance. The purpose of the gathering was to come together in a spirit of prayer and collaboration in sharing new and creative ideas in ministry. The discussion addressed important issues in the lives of the young people. One of the topics discussed was the challenge of keeping our youth people involved in their faith beyond high school. Matt Faley, Director of Young Adult and Campus Ministry and Fr. Doug Marcotte, Chaplain of Franklin College participated in the discussion. The sad and disheartening statistic that 80% of Catholics leave the Church by the time they are 23 years old makes this on-going discussion crucial. The group acknowledges that much work needs to be done to continue to evangelize to our young people, and we need to work together to find solutions to reverse this current trend. Archbishop Tobin will join the group at the next meeting on September 3, 2014 from 6:30-8:00 PM. Please save the date and plan on participating in this great opportunity to dialogue and advocate for our youth and for the future of our Church!

YOU ARE INVITED TO NOMINATE A PARISH ADMINISTRATOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR THE "EXCELLENCE IN CATECHESIS" AWARD
Since 1996 the Office of Catholic Education has honored a parish administrator of religious education each year with the Excellence in Catechesis award. Please consider nominating your PARE for this opportunity to highlight her or his great work in the teaching of our Faith.

For a brief and simple application form, please email Ken Ogorek, archdiocesan Director of Catechesis, at kogorek@archindy.org. Nominations are due June 30, 2014. Let’s work together to honor another one of our great parish administrators of religious education!

Nominations from 2011 to 2013 are retained on file for consideration. Previous awardees still active in local catechetical ministry are listed below:

- Mary Jo Thomas-Day
- Cynthia Flaten
- Barbara Black
- Ann Northam
- Dolores Snyder
- Kim Sprague
- John Jacobi
- Janice Dopp
- Rosalie Hawthorne

Interested in Evangelization and the RCIA?

Presented by the Archdiocese of Indianapolis
Saturday, June 14, 2014 • 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
SS. Francis & Clare Church
5901 Olive Branch Road * Greenwood, IN 46143

Featuring presenter Keith Strohm from the Catherine of Siena Institute who follows the thought of the popular book Forming Intentional Disciples: The Path to Knowing and Following Jesus.

Who’s invited?? RCIA Coordinators and Team Members, Evangelization Commission/Committee Members and all who are interested in evangelization and/or the work of RCIA!

For more information contact Peg McEvoy at pmcevoy@archindy.org.

St. Theodora Excellence in Education Award Winners

“I sleep but my heart watches over this house which I have built.” St. Théodora Guérin

The Saint Theodora Excellence in Education Award is named after the foundress of the Sisters of Providence, St. Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana. As teacher and leader, she was graced with the ability to look beyond personal hardships and to inspire others to face each day joyfully, fully trusting in God’s providence. Saint Theodora distinguished herself in the formation of teachers of religion. She modeled a tradition of excellence in education for all. The St. Theodora Guérin Excellence in Education Award was created to honor exemplary teachers, the highest honor for Catholic educators in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

This year there were eight finalists—all incredible teachers—who were interviewed by a team of educators. Rob Rash, Assistant Superintendent, states, “Each year we honor exemplary teachers. It is obvious the dedication to our Catholic schools each of these educators demonstrates. Every teacher we interview states that teaching is a vocation—something they are called to do.” Members of the Archdiocesan Education Commission, the Faith Formation Team, and Catholic high school and elementary administrators all participated in the selection process. All finalists were celebrated in their parish communities either with a presentation following Mass or a special convocation attended by Mrs. Gina Kuntz-Fleming, superintendent of our Catholic schools.

Congratulations!

Archbishop Joseph Tobin, Bishop Christopher Coyne, Mr. Harry Plummer, Mrs. Gina Kuntz Fleming and the entire archdiocese are pleased to recognize these eight outstanding educators with the St. Theodora Guerin Excellence in Education Award:

AWARD RECIPIENT
MATT HOLLOWELL
Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School
Matt with Cardinal Ritter President, Mr. Greg Perkins and Principal, Mrs. Jo Hoy

★ FINALISTS ★
BETH BROGAN
Bishop Chatard High School, Indianapolis
KIM HIGDON
Saint Barnabas School, Indianapolis
AMY HUBER
Holy Family School, New Albany
KAREN KING
Saint Christopher School, Speedway
JENNY LENTS
Saint Louis School, Batesville
ALICE MATTINGLY
Saint Pius X School, Indianapolis
TERESA MINTON
Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ School, Indianapolis
Technology is having a tremendous impact on education today. We are in the presence of a generation in which technology is considered to be a tool needed and utilized as lifelong learners. The following are two success stories in our Catholic schools:

“As with most schools, we began our technology journey primarily as a method of substitution: typing papers, creating PowerPoint’s etc. Now we use technology to enhance the end product. Blogging, verbal story books, website construction, coding, video producing and movie trailer creation are just a few of our student projects. Many of our classrooms have created Twitter accounts where the students tweet about what is happening. Students create digital reports and classes can SKYPE™ with professionals and students around the world. Student’s blog as characters in their books, or create infomercials on a product they researched… Primary grade students practice skills using various apps during centers or create collaborative projects using sound and video. Students even created video productions on the Stations of the Cross and what stewardship means to them. Technology can enhance all subjects and topics. The possibilities are endless and we are just getting started.”

~ By Paula Pletcher, Media Specialist
St. Simon the Apostle Catholic School, Indianapolis.

“Students no longer have one option of assessment for me to determine when learning happens… My students created digital exhibits for an online museum. From videos and online posters to Minecraft re-creations and Skype™ simulations, students chose the medium that interested them and then focused on demonstrating learning through content choices. Through Google Apps for Education and other cloud-based tools, my students collaborate with not only their classmates, but other students and experts around the world. These tools have made the ability to connect with others more efficient and robust. The four walls no longer confine learning to my classroom. Students can participate in online discussions, collaborative presentations and more, regardless of time, space, or distance.

Learning is now available anytime and anywhere. That is a great equalizer for many and gives my students the skills necessary to exceed in our increasingly global world.”

~ Troy Cockrum, Middle School English/Reading Teacher
St. Thomas Aquinas School, Indianapolis.
“GO EAST, YOUNG MAN!” CATECHETICAL DIRECTOR TAKING GROUP TO SUMMER CONFERENCE

Catechetical conferences are not quite a dime a dozen. Still, quite a few opportunities exist for teachers of our Faith to hone their knowledge, skills and spiritual health.

“The best catechetical conference in North America,” says Ken Ogorek, archdiocesan Director of Catechesis, “is the Saint John Bosco Conference for Catechists and Religious Educators.” This July, Ogorek is filling a 12-passenger van and hitting the road for Ohio so that Catholic educators involved with parish administration of religious education, youth ministry and teaching religion in our Catholic schools can benefit from this relevant and reinvigorating conference experience.

Past attendees from our archdiocese have comments like these about the conference: “I truly walked away refreshed and rejuvenated in my passion to minister to others and myself!” “I am thankful for the opportunity and hope I can attend again this summer.” (This person has a seat on our 2014 van!)

Several generous benefactors have helped our Office of Catholic Education expand the number of attendees from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis this year. We hope to continue expanding this effort for years to come—all to benefit those encountering Jesus in the teaching ministry of our local Church.

More information on the annual Saint John Bosco conference can be found here: http://www.steubenvilleconferences.com/adult/bosco.

CIRCLE OF GRACE TRAINING CONTINUES

In July of 2012, the Archdiocese of Indianapolis adopted the Circle of Grace program to ensure that all children and youth in grades K-12 in Catholic schools and religious education programs could learn about safe boundaries and develop skills for protecting themselves from abuse. The archdiocese chose this program developed in the Archdiocese of Omaha after researching many programs. Circle of Grace complements, in the best way, the catechetical programs already being offered to children in parishes and schools here.

Circle of Grace teaches that from our conception, God loves each of us as a unique individual and gifts us with a “Circle of Grace” that allows us to grow in loving relationships as we make choices about who and what we allow to cross the boundaries into that circle. The curriculum consists of age-appropriate, active-learning-based lessons that are rooted in the Catholic faith. Children and youth participating in the program learn that they are special in the eyes of God, are empowered to protect themselves, to respect others and to create relationships with trusted adults.

As Circle of Grace Coordinator since January 2014, Sr. Cathy Campbell has been building on the solid foundation laid by Carla Hill who trained many parish level facilitators in 2012-2013. Since taking over, she has worked to: 1) Assure that every parish has school leaders, religious educators, and/or youth ministers prepared to implement the program and train their colleagues; 2) Increase the number of facilitators available; 3) Assist those at the local level in their implementation efforts; 4) Work with task forces to identify and publish “best practices” for their unique contexts; and 5) Ensure that facilitators submit required documentation so we can celebrate their efforts.

The Circle of Grace program is the third prong of the archdiocese’s commitment to fulfill the mandates of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People adopted in 2002. Other prongs that adults have to fulfill include accepting the Code of Conduct and completing the on-line SAFE and SACRED program.

To learn more about Circle of Grace, go to http://www.archindy.org/abuse/index.html.

YOUTH AND THEIR MENTORS HONORED

The CYO and Youth Ministry Volunteer Awards were presented on May 6, 2014 at the SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis with Bishop Coyne presiding over the ceremony. This event is a wonderful opportunity to recognize parish volunteers who humbly and generously give of their time and talent. Twenty-six high school students from 14 different parishes received the Spirit of Youth Award which is given to youth in recognition of their demonstration of Catholic values, volunteer efforts in the parish and for their positive contributions in the community. Many adults were also recognized for their years of service in volunteering their time and talent in mentoring youth. Nineteen adults from 14 different parishes received the Msgr. Albert Busald Award in recognition of being a good Catholic role model, demonstrating the highest ethical standards, encompassing the values and teachings of the Catholic Church and contributing to the spiritual, physical, psychological and social development of youth. Seven adults from seven different parishes received the St. John Bosco Award which is the highest and most selective award presented to Adult volunteers. These recipients were recognized for volunteering in the CYO or Parish Youth Ministry program for more than five years, contributing to the spiritual, physical, psychological and social development of youth. They must be good Catholic role models by demonstrating the highest ethical standards and encompassing the values and teachings of the Catholic Church.

In addition to the awards presented at this joyful event, the Archdiocesan Youth Council, comprised of High School youth across the archdiocese, were recognized for their achievements. This select group of young people is called to share and develop their leadership gifts by representing the “voice” of the young people in our communities and advocating for the importance of parish youth ministry throughout the 11 deaneries. Bishop Coyne offered a graduation blessing to the outgoing seniors, and he commissioned the 2014-2015 Archdiocesan Youth Council sending them forth in service to the archdiocese. It is an annual event that happens each spring, so all parishes are encouraged to participate in honoring those that are truly an example of Christ to those they serve.
Reflections from the Executive Director

Dear Friends and Vineyard Co-Workers,

It is with a grateful but heavy heart that I write to you in this superb issue of The Good Word. As you may have already heard, I will not be returning to my employment as Executive Director of the Secretariat for Catholic Education and Faith Formation after June 30, 2014. The reason is simple: after much prayer and discernment, I have made the decision to accept a position working in private Catholic school educational leadership in Phoenix, Arizona. It was a difficult decision to make. I have truly enjoyed my four years of serving in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and would like to thank all of you for the support, guidance and encouragement you have provided me during my tenure.

As you know, our Office of Catholic Education is staffed with highly competent, dedicated individuals committed to continuing to provide exemplary service to you during this upcoming time of transition. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to have had a hand in shaping OCE during my time here and, I believe, positioning it for ever higher standards of successful service to the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

Please keep the Plummer family in your prayers as we enter into this new endeavor in the service of Catholic education, and be assured of ours. If I can be of any assistance during this transition, please don’t hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely yours in the Risen Lord,

Harry Plummer
Executive Director

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