The Good Word 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.

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Celebrating Saint Theodora

On July 1, in a ceremony at the Vatican, Pope Benedict XVI announced that, on Oct. 15, 2006, he will solemnly confer sainthood upon Blessed Mother Theodore Guérin, the 19th-century foundress of the Sisters of Providence of Saint-Mary-of-the-Woods. Upon her canonization, St. Theodora will become the first saint from Indiana and the eighth American saint.

A number of archdiocesan administrators and teachers will make the archdiocesan pilgrimage to Rome for the canonization October 11-19. Terri Horton, principal of Our Lady of Perpetual Help School, New Albany, included the pilgrimage as part of her administrative goals. “I talked to my pastor about my goals for this year and he suggested that I should attend this once-in-a-lifetime event. I am so excited about making this trip.”

Media attention and public awareness of the upcoming canonization has generated a growing interest in the life of Blessed Mother Theodore. Teachers are arranging class trips to Saint Mary-of-the-Woods to learn more about her role in Indiana history and Church history. Parish and school groups are inviting Sisters of Providence to speak about their foundress. At Roncalli High School, during canonization week, a different Sister of Providence will lead prayer each day and share a personal reflection on Blessed Mother Theodore. Indianapolis East Deanery Schools will celebrate a joint liturgy in honor of the Sisters of Providence and their contributions to our Catholic schools. Schools in the Indianapolis West Deanery are anticipating a visit from “Mother Guérin,” herself, in the dramatic portrayal of Mother Theodore’s life and legacy by Providence Sister Ann Casper. The month of October will be an exciting one this year through the grace of Divine Providence and the goodness of Blessed Mother Theodore Guérin.

“It’s so exciting to think that we’re going to have a canonized saint from Indiana, especially somebody that we’re so familiar with,” said Msgr. Joseph Schaedel, archdiocesan vicar general. “I’ve been familiar with Mother Theodore and her life since the sisters taught me at the former Bishop Charette High School (now Roncalli) in Indianapolis.”

~ The Criterion

"In all and everywhere may the will of God be done."
~ Blessed Mother Theodore Guérin
Have You Heard the Good Word About Catholic Education?

Costello Named Superintendent

Dr. Ronald Costello, EdD., has been appointed Superintendent of Catholic Schools by Mickey Lentz, Executive Director of Catholic Education and Faith Formation. Ron has served as Associate Executive Director, Catholic Education for School Improvement and as Director of Project EXCEED since 2001. He will retain many of his former duties in curriculum and instruction, but will also assume some of the superintendent responsibilities formerly covered by Mickey Lentz.

Bishop Malone on the National Directory for Catechesis

Bishop Richard T. Malone, of the Diocese of Portland, Maine, presented key perspectives from the new National Directory for Catechesis (NDC) to nearly 200 pastors and parish staff during a symposium on September 12. The bishop is a member of the USCCB Committee on Catechesis and former Director of Religious Education and Secretary for Education in the Archdiocese of Boston.

In welcoming remarks, Archbishop Daniel Buechlein stressed four areas to which catechetical leaders must give particular attention:

- Root all teaching in prayer.
- Do not neglect the content of the faith in favor of understanding the culture.
- Encourage youth and young adults to consider vocations to lay leadership, the priesthood and consecrated life.
- Make good use of the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults in our work, especially with young adults.

John Valenti, Associate Director for Evangelization and Life-long Formation, offered a brief overview of the six tasks of catechesis from the directory: promoting knowledge of the faith; liturgical and sacramental education; moral formation; teaching how to pray with Christ; educating for community life in the church; and, promoting a missionary spirit.

Bishop Malone shared a wealth of information and stories from his personal experience and ministry. OCE posed the following question to several attendees: “What touched your heart or challenged you in Bishop Malone’s address?”

- “The bishop’s image of ‘analyzing the soil’ of our culture ‘...challenges us to teach a message that is authentic, inculturated, and yet tailored to those whom we teach.’” Joe Peters, Associate Executive Director
- Bishop Malone “…made me aware of the need to get a pulse on the culture, especially those of us in youth ministry.”
- Kay Scoville, Program Coordinator, Youth and Young Adult Ministry
- “When I work with catechists, I need to remind them that the culture of the parish affects them and those they teach.”
- Roni Wyld, SPRED Coordinator
- “Some level of conversion is necessary if catechesis is to fulfill its task of education, as catechesis is an ‘essential moment’ in evangelization that ‘matures’ conversion.” Mickey Lentz, Executive Director
- “…Bishop Malone’s emphasis on the need to dialogue with families about how they can live their faith … would help Catholics ‘connect the dots’ between faith and life and make faith a priority.” Robin Andrews, Administrative Assistant

The symposium ended with a commissioning prayer service. Ann Northam, DRE at St. Augustine parish, Jeffersonville, spoke for many when she said, “After the bishop prayed over me, I felt like I was blessed and ready to go!” Everyone left knowing that the NDC calls each of them to promote lifelong faith formation in order to transform themselves and the world in which they live and work.

“Woodseys” and the Black Onyx Ring... visit the Evangelization Blogsite at goandmakedisciples.blogspot.com

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One Principal, Two Schools

What do you do when you have six urban schools, each with enrollments of under 250 students and high need for exceptional leadership? You think “outside-the-box” and find ways to put the right people in place to impact school-wide success. This year, the Catholic Urban School Consortium has an administrative team concept in place. The concept is built around a strong academic leader for the school coupled with an operational leader for handling the day-to-day issues that arise. With this concept at the forefront of planning, one principal oversees the academic success of two schools. Teaming with the principal is a full-time campus director – one at each building. Each administrative team of one principal and two campus directors works collaboratively to make the schools into highly effective learning environments. So far, a number of benefits have been observed through the new administrative structure:

- teaming staff members together for staff development and instructional collaboration;
- sharing of resources;
- bringing students together from both locations to share common and diverse ideas in completing projects;
- creating more time from an administrative perspective for monitoring instruction within the classroom;
- offering career advancement, as campus directors, for teachers with leadership ability helps form future principals with administrative experience.

While there are still some logistical issues in this first year of implementation, the overall team concept is taking hold within the schools of the Catholic Urban School Consortium. The Consortium Director is Connie Zittnan. The schools, all located in Indianapolis, and their new leadership administrative teams are:

**HOLY CROSS CENTRAL**
- Terri Rodriguez, Principal
- Gary Asher, Campus Director

**ST. PHILIP NERI**
- Terri Rodriguez, Principal
- Mary McCoy, Campus Director

**HOLY ANGELS**
- Cindy Greer, Principal
- Michael Joseph, Campus Director

**ST. ANTHONY**
- Cindy Greer, Principal
- Sandy Hines, Campus Director

**CENTRAL CATHOLIC**
- Ruth Tinsley, Principal
- Sara Browning, Campus Director

**ST. ANDREW & ST. RITA CATHOLIC ACADEMY**
- Ruth Tinsley, Principal
- Peggy O’Connor-Campbell, Campus Director

Father Tony challenged administrators to continue to nurture their spiritual formation and to affirm the great spirit of collegiality that exists among them in the archdiocese.

**WHAT IS A CHRIST RENEWS HIS PARISH WEEKEND?**

*Christ Renews His Parish (CRHP)* is a two-day retreat unlike any other. Parishioners share with one another the ways they have found meaning, hope, peace and love in their lives. The experience is personal, inspirational, and fulfilling. Many participants count their CRHP weekend experience among the most powerful and positive of their life and it is a perfect way to establish a stronger bond with God and fellow parishioners. The atmosphere is casual and conducive to beginning friendships that will last a lifetime. Previous CRHP participants are always very happy to talk about their experiences.

*Christ Renews His Parish* has separate weekends for men and women allowing young families to better attend to family needs. Participants are usually age twenty-five or older. The CRHP weekend is very similar to half-time during a football game. Time has been set aside to rest, regroup, make mid-course adjustments, rethink strategies, refresh, and be ready for a victorious “second half.” A *Christ Renews His Parish* weekend is a break from busy schedules of personal, business and family obligations in order to gain spiritual refreshment and be ready for the rest of the game of life.

Many parishes will be sponsoring *Christ Renews His Parish* weekends. Contact your parish or ask your pastor to check it out.
Legacy for Our Mission

The Legacy for Our Mission Campaign is a comprehensive, archdiocesan-wide initiative aimed at generating capital, endowment and direct ministry funds to strengthen parishes and archdiocesan ministries. The campaign started in 2004 and will continue through December 2007, directly impacting our education and faith formation ministries.

The goal of Legacy for Our Mission is to raise at least $100 million for six priorities including: parish ministry; education; home missions; charities; future ministry; and, our ministry of care. Our mission of education includes capital improvements, student financial assistance, innovations in teacher development and programs for children with special needs. The education and faith formation ministries of the archdiocese will also benefit from other priorities, especially home missions and future ministries. Individual campaigns for parish ministry will also help meet education and faith formation needs at the local level.

Legacy for Our Mission is a sharing campaign. At least fifty percent of the proceeds of the campaign will be designated for parish ministries, while the remainder will be directed towards the shared ministries and home missions of the archdiocese. The two largest components of the archdiocesan case are education at 24 percent and home missions at 38 percent. Some of the components of the case for our mission of education include: the capital needs and student financial needs in our interparochial high schools; the continuation and expansion for Project EXCEED, our four-year school improvement initiative that was originally funded by Lilly Endowment Inc. and other generous donors; and expansion of the Opportunity Endowment for needy students in schools other than those in center city Indianapolis.

Home mission funds will assist schools in the Catholic Urban School Consortium for the center city of Indianapolis, including student financial aid from the Making a Difference Endowment and financial aid for students in schools outside Indianapolis that qualify for Home Mission funds.

Many parishes have educational priorities in their local “cases” for funding. Among them are: renovation and expansion of the school at Immaculate Heart of Mary, Indianapolis; establishment and construction of a new elementary school at SS. France and Clare, Greenwood; and, construction of a new gymnasium at Seton Catholic High School for multi-ministry use by the tri-parishes of the Catholic Community of Richmond.

Legacy of Hope from Generation-to-Generation, our last capital campaign positively impacted every education and faith formation ministry in the archdiocese, and we expect Legacy for Our Mission to do the same.

Beginnings Plus Institute and the RCIA Process

Over the course of four days in July, 120 persons from thirteen dioceses attended the Beginnings Plus RCIA Institute at Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish to study the compelling vision of adult initiation and sharpen their pastoral skills for more effective implementation of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). The institute, co-sponsored by the Christian Initiation Committee of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and the North American Forum on the Catechumenate, placed particular emphasis on the relationship between good liturgy and good catechesis. Both are essential for meaningful and effective initiation ministry.

Representatives of 46 archdiocesan parishes, including a number of pastors, were present to further their RCIA study under the guidance of nationally recognized RCIA catechists and liturgists.

The RCIA is a process of conversion -- a gradual process that marks four major stages along the path to full initiation into the Roman Catholic Church. The Rite also recognizes that in order to become a fully mature Christian, a person walking that path must become an active and conscious participant in liturgy and have a vibrant life of prayer leading to discipleship through actions that reflect Gospel values.

For more information about the RCIA process, contact John Valenti, Associate Director for Evangelization and Lifelong Formation in the Office of Catholic Education, jvalenti@archindy.org.

Catechetical Sunday Reflection 2006

“Even the church depends on an effective catechesis to be faithful to Christ’s command to proclaim the Gospel. The Christian community is in herself, living catechesis.”

- National Directory for Catechesis, no.19, c

Helping others to encounter the living Christ is a fundamental goal of all catechetical efforts. When Jesus asked Peter, “Who do you say that I am?” (Mark 8:29), he reminds us that before teaching others about Christ, we must know Him well ourselves.

The question that Jesus asked his disciples so long ago is one that each Christian must answer for her- or himself even today. How we respond to this question affects how we live, pray, make decisions, and form relationships. It is a question that goes to the very heart of Christian discipleship.

In answering the question Jesus poses to us we need to reflect on how our lives can be a “living catechesis.” Can our lives and not just our words, make evident our answer to who Jesus is? Consider these possible ways to live out the answer:

Learn more about our Catholic faith. Read, reflect and study the new United States Catholic Catechism for Adults to know Him better.

Deepen your participation in the Eucharist. Gather weekly with your parish community to celebrate the Eucharist. When we receive the Body and Blood of our Lord we pray to become what we eat so we can be Christ’s Body for others.

Base your choices on Christian Principles. Our daily decisions need to reflect the values of Jesus. Ask yourself, if I were on trial for being a Christian – would there be enough evidence to convict me?

Set aside time for prayer. Prayer is simply communication with God. Make time in your day for reading scripture or other spiritual reading.

Cherish your family, friends and catechists. Look for the face of Christ in the people closest to you. Give thanks for those, living or dead, who have inspired you in your faith.

Reach out to those in need. Participate in parish social action, advocate for human rights, or volunteer time to provide for those in need. Reflect upon how Jesus responded to the sick and poor.

Be especially grateful that our parishes have reported that:

- 352 catechists have provided faith enrichment for 3,204 adult Catholics.
- 2,616 catechists have served in our 150 parishes and missions, helping 17,418 youth in religious education and youth ministry programs to grow in their faith.

Harry J. Dudley, D.Min., is the Associate Executive Director for Life Long Faith Formation and Evangelization for the Archdiocese.
The eleventh annual Celebrating Catholic School Values, Scholarship and Career Awards dinner will be held on November 8, 2006 in Hall C, Indiana Convention Center, Indianapolis. This is the premier event of the year showcasing our Catholic Schools and their “products.” The keynote speaker is Kate O’Beirne, Washington Editor of the National Review who is herself a product of Catholic education. Career Achievement Honorees for 2006 are: Edward J. Fillenwarth, Jr.; Rev. Joseph Kern; Robert Koetter, Jr.; and, the Hon. Tanya Walton-Pratt. The Community Service Honoree is Alecia DeCoudreaux. Several levels of sponsorship are available. If you are interested in attending/sponsoring the dinner, please contact the Office of Stewardship and Development at 236-1425 or (800)382-9836, ext. 1425.

Thank You and Best Wishes!
The following administrators, after years of dedicated service, have moved on from parish and school ministry: Kathy Tichenor, Patty Whitaker, Maureen Reynolds, Mary Elaine Haas, Laura Riley, Martha Hartman and Sr. Anna Rose Leuken, Sr. Pamela Doyle, Bro. Mike Austin, Mike Schrecker, Michelle Lanning, Janet Rauch, Steve Nichols, Chris Zimmermann, Juan Escamez, Mary Alice Steppe, and Linda Illingsworth. Thanks from all of us!

Parish Administrators of Religious Education

New Faces
Sr. Andre’ Burkhart, OSF - Holy Guardian Angels, Cedar Grove and St. Michael, Brookville
Debra Condon - St. Andrew the Apostle, Indpls.
Anne Corcoran - St. Monica, Indianapolis
Monica Graf - Sacred Heart of Jesus, Jeffersonville
Loraine (Lori) Hamilton - Our Lady of Perpetual Help, New Albany
Lisa Whitaker - St. Joseph Hill, Clark County
Susan Yanoos - St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Cambridge City
Cynthia Light - American Martyrs Parish, Scottsburg
Kelly O’Brien - St. Ann, Indianapolis
Stacy Hennessy - Immaculate Heart of Mary, Indpls
Kim Getman - St. Vincent de Paul, Bedford and St. Mary, Mitchell
Gary Taylor - St. Mary, Navilleton
Judy Hall - St. Mark, Perry County
Marty Williams - St. Augustine, Leopold
Jeanne Harth - St. Pius, Troy
Aaron Haag - St. Lawrence, Indianapolis
Gabriella Redding - St. Philip Neri, Indpls.

New Places
Tina Albin - St. Susanna, Plainfield
Maggie Jackson - St. Nicholas, Sunman
Sanbi Patel - SS. Francis & Clare, Greenwood
Kent Schwartz - St. Mark, Indianapolis
Nancy Schroeder - St. Mary, Greensburg
Chad Moeller - St. Louis, Batesville

School Administrators

New Faces
Ted Caron - St. Pius X, Indianapolis
Pat Flaherty - St. Mary, Aurora
Kelly England - St. Rose of Lima, Franklin
Gina Fleming - Holy Name, Beech Grove
Jerry Flynn - St. Thomas the Aquinas, Indpls.
Sue Geyman - Pope John XXIII, Madison
Jann Metelko - St. Mary, Rushville
Ken Saxon - St. Michael, Brookville
Sarah Watson - St. Gabriel, Indianapolis

New Places
Tina Albin - St. Susanna, Plainfield
Maggie Jackson - St. Nicholas, Sunman
Sanbi Patel - SS. Francis & Clare, Greenwood
Kent Schwartz - St. Mark, Indianapolis
Nancy Schroeder - St. Mary, Greensburg
Chad Moeller - St. Louis, Batesville

Youth Ministers

New Faces
Andrea McKee - St. Mary, Greensburg
Emily Perkins - Our Lady of Lourdes, Indpls.
Tom Steiner - St. Christopher, Indianapolis
Melissa Martini - St. Mary, Aurora
Niki Gonzales - St. Vincent, Bedford
Andy Erbse - St. Barnabas, Indianapolis
Amy Brockman - St. Louis, Batesville

New Places
Austin Rahill
St. Joseph University, Terre Haute
Greetings Colleagues and Friends:

We are, once again, well into the program year. Parish faith formation and youth ministry programs are off to a great start and our schools are already sending home mid-term progress reports. The celebration of Catechetical Sunday each year in September reminds us that each of us, regardless of our area of ministry, is called to evangelize, and to “teach as Jesus did.” I love the theme for this year’s catechetical celebration, “Who do you say that I am?” It causes each of us to reflect upon this question Jesus posed to Peter as it relates to our own ministry.

The call to catechetical ministry is one of challenge and pride. When I think of “being called,” I immediately think of Blessed Mother Theodore Guérin, soon to be named the eighth saint from the United States and the first saint from Indiana. What an honor and source of pride for us all! During her lifetime, Mother Guerin was a wonderful example of leadership in the face of challenges, many of which we still face today. She was homeless for a time, endured personal tragedies, and coped with chronic health problems. But, she never let her misfortunes interfere with her mission. She was a great teacher whose story can strengthen our lives.

In reflecting upon who we are and what we do, let us be mindful of God’s presence in our lives – the abiding presence that guides us throughout our journey. God will not let us fail. “…And rest assured, if you lean with all your weight on Providence, you will find yourself well supported.” (Blessed Mother Theodore Guérin)

Soon we will celebrate Mother Theodore’s canonization as Saint Theodora. It is a time for all of us to prepare and participate in special celebrations in her honor. Children and adults in every parish and deanery should make this a special time. Let it be for you as it is for me, a glorious occasion, and one with which I am very proud to be associated.

God bless,

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

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