Football season has begun and we have “kicked off” our year with many great opportunities to advance Catholic education and faith formation, all culminating in May with the 175th Anniversary of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

Youth ministers, faith formation administrators and school administrators began our year together at French Lick in August. It was a great “kick-off” with 200+ gathered to celebrate liturgy, learn, play and pray together. We were challenged by speaker Bob McCarty on engaging our youth in the Faith. Now, we need to act on this important message.

Focusing on those we serve, how can we make this the best year ever? We will be Celebrating Catholic School Values for the thirteenth year on November 5, with author Mary Higgins Clark and five great honorees. Then, on November 11, we will begin training adults to present “Theology of the Body for Teens,” a new program based on the teachings of the late Pope John Paul II. The Catholic Schools Week theme for 2009 is “Celebrate Service.” My hope is that all ministries could collaborate on a major service project that would culminate in late January.

This year I will continually try to focus our attention on the Celebration of the 175th Anniversary of the Archdiocese. The theme is: “We Have Seen the Lord: Come and See.” There is much to celebrate and we need each of you to help us make the celebration be the BEST it can be. Please reserve Sunday May 3, 2009 for the Jubilee Mass at Lucas Oil Stadium. Details will be coming soon with suggestions on how everyone can contribute to the success of the event.

Finally, I am privileged to be a part of the Archdiocesan Pilgrimage to the Holy Land this month. This journey will be the official launch of the 175th Anniversary event. Know that I will pray for you all along the way and I ask you to join your prayers with mine during the trip.

God bless,

Mickey
World Youth Day, Sydney 08
Kay Scoville, YM Program Coordinator

We began planning in January 2007 for World Youth Day 2008 in Sydney, Australia. Not only would we get to visit Australia, but we would also be in the presence of Pope Benedict XVI. Still in my first year as Program Coordinator for Youth Ministry, I was a bit overwhelmed with the responsibility of taking young people half-way around the world. Moreover, I had no concept of the extent and importance of the preparation time needed to make this trip successful. Our pilgrim group gathered four times for prayer, catechesis, community-building and discussion of details for the trip before we left.

We were blessed to have 90 pilgrims from all over the archdiocese on the trip. They ranged in age from 16 to 65. Youth, in my opinion, is a state of mind; however, this trip was not for the faint of heart. It was a pilgrimage in every sense of the word as travel to Australia took a whole day by plane. Upon arrival in beautiful Brisbane, it was winter, and a pleasant, sunny 65 degrees. This was the four-day “vacation” portion of the trip as we visited breath-taking beaches, a lush rain forest and the Steve Irwin Zoo. The culture there is very similar to ours. Everyone is very friendly and speaks English. One cultural difference: we had spaghetti on toast for breakfast!

Excitement heightened as we arrived in Sydney for World Youth Day. Our “simple” accommodations were provided by St. Christopher Parish in Panania, a Sydney suburb. They gave us an awesome welcome and hospitality. They were true witnesses of Christ to us. And, as true “pilgrims,” we slept on the floor, ate tuna or baked beans for lunch, and shared three portable showers with 200 people! The Lord says, “leave everything and follow me,” …and we did; at least all the comforts of home. We experienced daily catechesis, but the most memorable moments were the opening Mass and, of course, the closing Mass celebrated by our Holy Father. We were all in awe praying in communion with a Body of Christ that numbered 400,000 Catholics from around the world. It was a true opportunity for conversion in experiencing the larger Church united in Christ. In retrospect, the pilgrimage was a huge project to plan and organize; but more so, it was an amazing opportunity for grace.
Celebrating Catholic School Values: Scholarship and Career Achievement Awards

Celebrating Catholic School Values Dinner
Wednesday, November 5, 2008

The Celebrating Catholic School Values: Scholarship and Career Achievement Awards event is our premier occasion each year for showcasing our Catholic Schools. Many of our recipients from past Celebrating Catholic School Values events tell us they consider their Career Achievement Award the greatest honor of their life. They cherish their award above all others because it represents the values they espouse every day in their lives as a result of their education in Catholic schools.

We are now planning for the 2008 Celebrating Catholic School Values dinner. We are excited to announce that this year’s keynote speaker will be popular author, Mary Higgins Clark. Since 1996 this event has featured nationally recognized keynote speakers, showcased the effectiveness of our schools, and honored some 65 servant-leaders for their values and accomplishments.

Corporate, foundation, parish, school, agency and individual investments in our mission through this event have totaled $3.86 million raised to aid our most needy elementary and high school students in southern and central Indiana. Last spring, nearly $200,000 in assistance was distributed from the very successful 2007 event.

The 2008 Celebrating Catholic School Values: Scholarship and Career Achievement Awards event will be held on Wednesday, November 5, 2008 at the Indiana Convention Center. Please plan now to bring your group to the celebration.

The Career Achievement Honorees for 2008 are:

Hon. Terrence Cody
St. Mary, New Albany

Ronald Jones
St. Rita, Indianapolis

Dick Powell
Christ the King and Bishop Chatard High School, Indianapolis

Sr. Marie Kevin Tighe, SP
St. Mary-of-the-Woods

The Community Service Honoree is:

D. Anthony (Tony) Watt

For ticket information, please contact Rosemary O’Brien in the Office of Stewardship and Development, robrien@archindy.org, 236-1568 or (800) 382-9836, ext. 1568.

Theology of the Body for Teens is Coming!

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis developed a peer mentoring chastity program titled “A Promise to Keep” (APTK) in 1994. The vision was to empower teens and young adults to take a leadership role in promoting the virtue of chastity. The Office of Catholic Education and APTK were “pioneers” in peer mentoring.

Once again the archdiocese is taking a bold step to meet the needs of our teens in their ongoing formation in chastity. We are proud to announce that OCE will sponsor Theology of the Body for Teens (TOB for TEENS) training for adults through Ascension Press on November 11, 2008 in Indianapolis. Brian Butler, who will conduct this all-day training, is co-author of TOB for TEENS with national chastity speaker, Jason Evert.

Theology of the Body (TOB) is a compilation of the reflections of the late Pope John Paul II on the creation of human beings and how we are called to live out the gift of our sexuality in relationship with one another. TOB for TEENS is based upon the late Holy Father’s catechesis, and has been specifically designed to target teen audiences. The program focuses mainly on chastity and vocation: two areas critical to the formation of today’s teens.

Who could benefit from attending this program? Anyone who is involved in any aspect of secondary Catholic education or faith formation. We welcome anyone interested in teaching Theology of the Body for Teens in parishes and/or schools. We encourage pastors, principals, parish administrators of religious education, teachers and catechists (especially in junior high and high school), youth ministers and young adult leaders to come. But, anyone interested in learning more about this program is welcome.

The TOB for TEENS Workshop will be held Tuesday, November 11, 2008, in Assembly Hall at the Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center, Indianapolis. Check-in will begin at 8:15AM and the program will run from 9:00AM–4:00PM. For more information, contact Margaret Hendricks at OCE, mhendricks@archindy.org or 236-1478 or (800)382-9836, ext. 1478.

Saint John Bosco Conference Rallies PAREs and Catechists

Several Parish Administrators of Religious Education attended the annual St. John Bosco Conference in July. “I was enriched and blessed beyond anything I could ever imagine,” says Cathy Andrews of St. Vincent de Paul in Bedford. “It was a very powerful experience—enriching my mind and touching my heart and soul through profound presentations, joy-filled gatherings, and spirit-filled liturgies.”

Lisa Whittaker of St. Joseph Hill in Sellersburg sent a catechist this year and has enjoyed the conference in years past. “I have found that the St. John Bosco Conference is an incredible opportunity to come together with fellow catechetical leaders to grow in knowledge, to network, and pray together.”

Says Lynn Hansen of St. John the Apostle in Bloomington, “This was my first experience with the St. John Bosco conference. The entire conference was wonderful, very pertinent, very Catholic, with excellent speakers and a great opportunity for networking with Catholic catechetical educators from around the country. It was definitely a welcome spiritual and educational shot in the arm and an experience I fully intend to repeat.”

Don’t miss this opportunity! It is less than a day’s drive away in east-central Ohio next July 22-26. Learn more at www.franciscanconferences.com.
Young Adult Ministry in OCE

God’s Universal Call to Holiness

In an intentional effort to build upon and continue their youth ministry experience, the Archdiocese of Indianapolis is making a further commitment to the service of young people as they head into the young adult years of their Catholic formation. In July 2008, Fr. Rick Nagel was named Director of Young Adult Ministry in the Office of Catholic Education, and Mary Schaffner was named part-time Program Coordinator. Fr. Nagel continues as Associate Pastor of Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish as well as Associate Director of Vocations and Mary also continues in campus ministry at Bishop Chatard High School.

A “Universal Call to Holiness” will be the focus of the re-vitalized ministry with a mission to create a greater “Culture of Vocations” in and through the lives of all young adult Catholics. “All of the Church’s energy must be directed to the New Evangelization,” proclaimed the late Pope John Paul II. As a product of the New Evangelization and new priest of the archdiocese, Fr. Nagel reflects, “Perhaps there is no soil more fertile for sowing the seeds of evangelization than with young adults. In my short priesthood, I have been in awe and wonder at the hunger of our college students and young adults of the archdiocese. Now is the time to re-claim, re-invoke, and re-establish our commitment to our young adults who are starving for the nourishment of the Sacraments, seeking understanding of the Catholic Tradition and searching for the supernatural love and presence of Jesus Christ in a secularized culture.”

A two-fold commitment to Young Adult Ministry within Archdiocese of Indianapolis has begun. Phase one of the proposal includes one year of research, understanding and development of a five-year plan for re-establishing campus and young adult ministry. Phase two will be the implementation of the five-year plan with actions developed out of year one.

“Educat[ing new generations in the Faith is a great and fundamentally important task that involves the entire Christian community,” one that has become “particularly difficult” today and, hence, is “even more important and urgent,” according to Pope Benedict XVI. Fr. Rick adds, “This is ‘mission territory’ and the harvest is great. Therefore, let us pray to the Lord to send forth workers for His bountiful young adult harvest and help us to make disciples of all nations and campuses! We look forward to working closely with college campus ministers and parish administrators in the months ahead as this ministry unfolds!”

Have You Visited the OCE Website?

Learn more about Catholic education, faith formation, evangelization, Catholic schools, youth ministry and young adult ministry along with many other special programs at www.archindy.org/oce/. “Public Pages” are being added for various ministries. Public Archives feature Items of Interest (downloads), archived copies of the Good Word and Professional Development opportunities. Highlighted calendar events scroll across the bottom and News and Announcements are updated frequently. Visit us to learn about parishes and schools, our curriculum, our many programs, our staff, or to apply for an administrative or teaching job online.

SPRED Retreat with Our Friends

On July 26-27, the fifth annual SPRED Retreat took place at the Benedict Inn in Beech Grove. OCE SPRED Coordinator Roni Wyld hosted catechists, and program developmentally disabled participants, known as “Friends,” from throughout the archdiocese. The number attending has grown every year. The first retreat hosted eleven people. This one involved 35 individuals – a capacity crowd. The theme of the 2008 retreat was “Joy of Belonging.”

The make-up of this retreat is of special note. Within SPRED organizations, which are now located in nine countries, our archdiocesan group shares their method of retreat participation with only one other group in Oakland, California. From the beginning, the SPRED retreat experience in this archdiocese has included both catechists and Friends, while other SPRED programs hold retreats only for adult catechists.

Catechists arrive on Friday evening. There is an opportunity to share a SPRED session, made special in that the session involves catechists from throughout the archdiocese. Catechists have an opportunity for rest, relaxation and renewal and are ready to share with their Friends, who arrive on Saturday morning at 10:00, armed with sleeping bags, swimsuits, and everything necessary for an overnight stay, including contagious enthusiasm.

During the retreat, Friends and catechists attend Mass with the Sisters of St. Benedict in their chapel. They do not sit together as a group, but mingle with the sisters with whom they have developed an ongoing relationship through the retreats.

Of the original five Friends who attended the first retreat, four have been in attendance at every subsequent retreat as well. This year, the one veteran Friend who was not able to attend last year, wanted so badly to attend that although he was on vacation in Michigan with his family, his father drove him to the retreat, and at its conclusion they returned to Michigan. This is but one example of the high value placed on this experience by the Friends, their families, and the catechists who participate.

Retreat Friends

Fr. Rick Nagel
Director of Young Adult Ministry

Mary Schaffner
Program Coordinator

Mary Schaffner
SPRED Coordinator

Roni Wyld
SPRED Coordinator
Parish Administrators of Youth Ministry

NEW FACES
Keith Alexander, St. Joe Hill, Sellersburg
Beth Curtin, St. Lawrence, Indianapolis
Shannon Gaughan-Kelly, St. Susanna, Plainfield
Karen Giesting, Sacred Heart, Indianapolis
Stacy Gillenwater, St. Anthony, Clarksville
Kellie Hammans, St. Roch, Indianapolis
Christy Lux, St. Monica, Indianapolis
Kevin Smith, St. Michael, Indianapolis
Staci Striegel, St. Bartholomew, Columbus
Adam Zoeller, New Albany Deanery Office

NEW PLACES
Marlene Stammerman, New Albany Deanery Office
Sean Winningham, Roncalli High School

School Administrators

NEW FACES
Sara Browning, Central Catholic, Indianapolis
Nancy Buening (Interim), St. Mary, Greensburg
Alec Mayer, St. Charles Borromeo, Bloomington
Mary McCoy, St. Philip Neri, Indianapolis
Jill Mires, Pope John XXIII, Madison
Bettina Rose, Oldenburg Academy, Oldenburg
Vince Shurger, St. Christopher, Indianapolis
Becky Spitznagel, Sacred Heart, Jeffersonville
Jeanine Vesper (Interim), Immaculate Heart of Mary, Indpls.

NEW PLACES
Terri Rodriguez, Nativity School, Indianapolis
Ruth Tinsley, Holy Cross Central, Indianapolis

Parish Administrators of Religious Education

NEW FACES
Laura Elstro, St. Elizabeth, Cambridge City
Renee Hodge & Laticia Pasillas, St. Ambrose, Seymour
Marian Kneuven, St. Malachy, Brownsburg
Pam Kramer, St. Bartholomew, Columbus
Sr. Angela Onuoha & Sr. Lelia Njoku, St. Rita, Indpls.
Barbara Sow, St. Joseph, Crawford County
Jim Steggeman, St. Patrick, Salem
Sr. Clare Teixeira, St. Paul, New Alsace
and St. Martin, Yorkville
Jessica Welsh, St. John the Baptist, Dover
and St. Joseph, St. Leon

NEW PLACES
Joseph Fey, St. Christopher, Indianapolis
Sr. Margie Niemer, St. Mary-of-the Rock in addition to St. Peter, Franklin County

New Notre Dame ECHO Apprentices
Meli Barber, St. Barnabas, Indianapolis
Lindsay Wilcox, Holy Name, Beech Grove

National Youth Ministry Leader Challenges Administrators

As executive director of the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM), Bob McCarty has unique insights regarding youth, families and Catholic education administrators. He addressed principals, parish administrators of religious education and youth ministers at the annual OCE Administrators’ Conference August 4-5 at French Lick Springs.

Dr. McCarty focused on the results of a recent study of youth and religion—particularly as this data applies to the work of Catholic education from cradle to grave. Reaching out to school parents, parishioners engaged in adult catechesis and each Catholic adult in the areas surrounding our parishes and schools is profoundly important in that it helps enliven the faith of these adults. In turn these adults—especially parents—have a major impact on the faith of their children according the study.

Catholic youth are ready to be challenged by the full impact of our faith—including its demands of service, sacrifice and chastity. But Catholic educators must work hard to compete with many conflicting, contrary voices in our culture. These voices often tempt youth and parents toward religious indifference and moral relativism.

Bob McCarty reminded us all of why we got into ministry—we’re motivated to bring the light of truth and love of God to young people and their families. Our work hasn’t gotten any easier. But we have each other and God’s grace to help us in our life-changing ministry of Total Catholic Education.

Mother Theodore Catholic Academies Enrollment Grows

Once again this fall, the Mother Theodore Catholic Academies six schools located in areas of great need within the Indianapolis center city, have experienced growth in enrollment. They also showed significant growth last fall. The Academies, St. Andrew & St. Rita, St. Anthony, Holy Cross, Holy Angels, Central Catholic, and St. Philip Neri, together added 73 new students to their ranks producing an overall enrollment increase of 8 percent. Perhaps most telling, was a comment by MTCA Director, Connie Zittnan, on the first day of school when she traveled to each school to welcome students. “I just left a school, and EVERYONE was wearing a brand new white shirt! They are so excited!” While just a small sign, it signifies that these schools hold a high value for the students who attend, and for the parents who sacrifice to support their presence there.
What is the TCE Fund?

The late Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara, STD, made a significant investment of donated funds to establish the Total Catholic Education Endowment Fund (TCE Fund) in the Catholic Community Foundation in 1990. The purpose is to provide financial resources to support the professional training, education and staff development of Catholic educators and catechetical leaders in the archdiocese. In 1993, Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein, OSB, made an additional significant investment in the fund.

In 1993 the former Archdiocesan Board of Education recommended criteria and procedures for grants and loans from the interest income of the endowment. These were revised in 2004 as recommended by the Archdiocesan Education Commission (AEC). Since the first distributions were made in 1993, approximately $1.7 million has been awarded to groups and individual employees. The principal of the Endowment has grown to $2.5 million and an average of $148,000 has been awarded for each of the past five years. There are two types of distributions from the TCE Fund:

**Type 1 Group Project Grants:** These are grants to fund professional training, education and staff development for groups of Catholic educational administrators, teachers, catechists, youth ministers, commission/board members and others involved in the delivery of the formal education and faith formation programs of the archdiocese.

**Type 2 Individual Educational Forgivable Loans:** These are tuition-only loans to individual education, faith formation and youth ministry employees of the archdiocese for professional education and training to enhance leadership or teaching skills or to obtain degrees or certification desired or required for specific roles or positions within the formal education and faith formation ministries of the archdiocese. The loans are conditional in that the grant agreement requires the employee to work for the archdiocese for five program years following completion of the funded educational program in order for repayment of the loan to be completely forgiven. Generally, one-half of a forgivable loan is funded by the parish or school and the other half is matched by the TCE Fund. Loans for college work are distributed for three semesters at a time before requiring renewal.

On the last grant cycle in March 2008, the Grants Committee of the AEC received requests for 7 grants and 16 forgivable loans (including 9 loan renewals). Of these, 3 grants and 15 loans (including all renewals) were awarded for a total of $62,598. The application deadlines for TCE grants, loans and renewals are **October 1** and **March 1** each year. Forms are available online at www.archindy.org/oce/, Items of Interest, Forms, or contact Theresa Brydon at OCE, tbrydon@archindy.org.