Young Adults Start a New Journey

It's not often that you see a Catholic Mass where all of the servers, greeters, Eucharistic ministers, Lectors, and choir members are under 35. At St. John the Evangelist’s 7:00 p.m. Sunday Mass, however, this is the norm. It is a liturgy planned by, served by, and directed toward young adults. It brings together a diverse and energetic group of young Catholic men and women especially from the downtown Indy area and from Indiana University Purdue University at Indianapolis (IUPUI).

The young adult mass is celebrated every Sunday night at St. John’s, and a social is held after mass on the second Sunday of each month. The liturgy is a great opportunity for young adults to meet Christ in the Eucharist, and the socials provide a chance to meet others who hold the same faith and values. Those who attended the first young adult mass had a very special guest. Archbishop Buechlein was gracious enough to attend the first social to meet the young adults present.

This new mass is just one facet of an exciting new young adult ministry taking shape in the archdiocese. Fr. Rick Nagel is the director of Young Adult and College Campus Ministry in the Office of Catholic Education as well as Sacramental Minister at St. John’s. He heads a new plan to encourage young adults to become more active in their Church. The young adult mass is one major outreach. Another part of the plan is to rebuild a Catholic presence at IUPUI.

With the help of many students and staff at IUPUI and the archdiocese, a new Catholic Student Organization has been formed. This group will help bring students to the Sacraments, especially at St. John’s. It will also provide other opportunities for students to grow their faith. The new FOCUS Program (see page five) will bring lay missionaries to campus to help make campus ministry more effective. Through service opportunities, Bible study, preparation and service in liturgy, retreats, pilgrimages, and other initiatives; Catholic students at IUPUI will develop their own faith and build a community of faith on campus.

Missy Brassic, an IUPUI student from the Indianapolis area, is happy with this new ministry. “I think it's a really good time to be a young adult,” she says. More than anything else, Brassic emphasizes her hope for the future: the future of her friends’, classmates’, and fellow young adults’ lives of faith in the Church. She sees this new ministry as a reason to believe and a way to spread the hope of Christ to other young adults.

These major outreaches to the young adult community, along with already existing programs like Theology on Tap, promise to lead the young Church of Indianapolis into an exciting future. The young are the hope of the Church. We are lucky to have many young Catholic adults brimming with hope and enthusiasm.

By Joe Pedersen, Notre Dame Echo Apprentice at St. John the Evangelist Parish and in OCE Young Adult and College Campus Ministry
Celebrate Catholic School Values With Us On November 10

The Celebrating Catholic School Values Scholarship and Career Achievement Awards dinner is scheduled for Tuesday, November 10, 2009 at the Indiana Convention Center. The keynote speaker for this 14th annual event will be Bill Polian, President of the Indianapolis Colts, a Catholic school product and former Catholic School teacher and coach. The Colts will receive the Community Service Award for this year for their extraordinary impact on the Indianapolis and Indiana communities through their accomplishments and actions on and off the football field.

The Career Achievement Honorees for this year are four graduates of Catholic schools who have led lives that exemplify the values taught in Catholic education. They are:

- **Oliver Jackson**, retired Indianapolis Police Sergeant with the Police Athletic League from St. Rita Parish (graduate of St. Rita School and Scecina Memorial High School)
- **Bob and Elly McNamara**, retired florists from St. Luke Parish (Bob graduated from St. Joan of Arc School and Cathedral High School; Elly graduated from Holy Family School in Hartford City, IN)
- **Patricia (Pat) Cronin**, Christ the King Parish, a retired major event planner and 2009 Irish Person of the Year (graduate of St. Anthony School and St. Agnes Academy)
- **Charles "Chick" Lauck**, retired Banker, Notre Dame and semi-pro football player (Attended St. Catherine and graduated from St. Roch Elementary schools and Sacred Heart High School on the south side)

This is our premier showcase event for 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.

Since 1996 this event has featured nationally recognized keynote speakers, showcased the effectiveness of our schools, and honored some 70 servant-leaders for their values and accomplishments. More than $4 million has been raised the past thirteen years through corporate, foundation, parish, school, agency and individual investments to aid our most needy elementary and high school students in southern and central Indiana. Nearly $200,000 in assistance was distributed from the 2008 event. These funds will be even more important for our students in 2009-2010 with the current economy.

Please plan now to purchase a table and invite a group from your business, parish, school or agency to attend. Call Rosemary O’Brien at 236-1568 or (800)382-9836, extension 1568.

---

A Year to Celebrate Priesthood

So many of our clergy work so hard to support solid, cradle-to-grave Catholic evangelization and education. By declaring June 19, 2009 – June 19, 2010 a Year for Priests, Pope Benedict XVI gives us an opportunity to reflect on the Sacrament of Holy Orders and the men who serve us so faithfully year-in and year-out.

The Office of Catholic Education will observe the official **Year of the Priest** in several ways. Among them we will highlight specific clergy each month in OCE notes. Also, two statues of Saint John Vianney – patron saint of parish priests – are making the rounds of our parishes, missions and schools as a basis for education, reflection and inspiration. Please see the Public Downloads Area of our OCE webpage to see how Saint John Vianney can visit your location!

**St. John Vianney**  
Patron of Parish Priests

Praying for priests is one of the most important ways we can support these servant-leaders as they in turn support our prophetic ministry of Catholic education. Let’s make 2009-2010 an exciting, holy and fruitful Year for Priests!

---

Doctrinal Guidelines for RCIA Catechesis

The Archdiocesan Initiation Committee—a collaborative effort between the Office of Catholic Education and the Office of Worship—has been working to develop catechetical guidelines for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). A goal of this effort is to do all we can to assist parishes in being confident that they are presenting the Catholic faith in a suitably comprehensive way with no gaps and no errors. The guidelines draw heavily on the **United States Catholic Catechism for Adults**. Although the guidelines have taken on a couple of different forms, the current working draft is in the form of “objectives,” both cognitive and affective. Ten parishes in the Archdiocese are “piloting” these guidelines during this program year with the understanding that their feedback will be used along with ongoing input from the Initiation Committee to determine what changes need to be made as we move toward a “final draft.” New RCIA Catechetical Guidelines should be available to all parishes in the fall of 2010. If you have any questions, you can contact Peg McEvoy, Associate Director for Evangelization and Family Catechesis at 236-1430, (800) 382-9836 ext. 1430, or by e-mail at pmcevoy@archindy.org.
Practicing the Beatitudes
Through Service to Others

It’s Pat’s first day at the Catholic Charities Adult Day Care Center, A Car-
ing Place, in Indianapolis. She’s a bit nervous, but she is welcomed by the
enthusiastic staff and a group of youth volunteers who are there for the day.
Pat suffers from cerebral palsy and is unable to communicate verbally, but
with gestures and the aid of a pictogram book, she helps the volunteers un-
derstand her. The teenagers set up a card table and invite Pat and a couple of other clients to play cards. It turned out to be a raucous game of Uno.

It’s Wednesday morning and the staff of St. Mary’s Child Center, an archdiocesan agency affiliated with the Secre-
tariat for Catholic Education and Faith Formation, welcomes some high school youth to volunteer in the day’s
activities. They start by working with the preschool-aged
children. The children share their stories and play games with the volun-
teeers. In the afternoon the teens help unload a truckload of sand and gravel to refurbish the playground. They even plant seeds and weed the Center’s “peace garden”.

A group of high school youth are preparing sack lunches at Roberts Park United Methodist Church in downtown Indianapolis on a Thursday morn-
ing. The teenagers put together the sandwiches and snacks in assembly line
style. Shortly before noon they take the lunches upstairs to be distributed to the waiting line of homeless men, women and children. The teen volunteers
give each person a lunch and cup of water.

Who are these teen volunteers? These are youth from across the archdiocese who gave up a week of their summer to participate in the annual Homeland Mission Project sponsored by OCE Youth Ministry. The theme of this
week-long experience in July was built around the Beatitudes, and the teens
were able to put the Beatitudes into practice through a wide range of service experiences.

The schools involved in the first cohort of Strategic Management and Development are:

Indianapolis:  
Holy Spirit  
Nativity  
Our Lady of Lourdes  
St. Christopher (Speedway)  
St. Joan of Arc  
St. Lawrence  
St. Therese, Little Flower  
Holy Family, New Albany  
Holy Name, Beech Grove  
Prince of Peace Schools, Madison  
St. Anthony, Clarksville  
St. Charles, Bloomington  
St Paul, New Alscce  
St. Rose of Lima, Franklin  
St. Vincent DePaul, Bedford  
Seton Schools, Richmond

Strategic Management and Development for Elementary Schools

The Strategic Management and Development Project for Selected Elementary Schools in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis began with a strategic planning seminar on August 25 attended by 125 people from 16 Catholic elementary schools. These 16 schools were
chosen from among 26 schools that actually applied (40 were invited). This is a four-year
intensive consulting program with Catholic School Management, Inc. (CSM) that is de-
signed to increase the ability of the school community to market themselves for image, enrollment and resources in an increasingly competitive environment and a challenging
strategy. A similar project was completed successfully with interparochial high schools

The project is funded by the schools and a matching grant raised for this purpose in the
recent Legacy for Our Mission campaign. The project involves pastors, administrators,
teachers, school commission members and interested parents working together on the
future of their school. Over the consultation period, the schools will develop and imple-
ment the institutional side of their plans, including strategies for increasing enrollment,
strategies for communicating the school’s message including high tech approaches and
strategies for fund-raising and building endowments.

CSM has used this process successfully for over 30 years in 28 dioceses and are cur-
rently engaged in 12 other dioceses. After a first-year evaluation of progress, another 16
schools may be invited to join a second cohort of the project next year or the following
year. A special second seminar will be held on September 30 to address Enrollment
Management in the schools. About 200 people are expected to attend. In addition to three
seminars this year, CSM Consultants will hold tracking meetings at each school every
six weeks, to provide guidance and to record progress of local committees. They will be
accompanied on each visit by staff members from the Office of Catholic Education and Office of Stewardship and Development.

There is great enthusiasm as we begin a new school year with eyes firmly on the future.

The Good Word
People to Serve You in OCE!

We welcome **Peg McEvoy** as full-time Associate Director of Evangelization and Family Catechesis in the Office of Catholic Education. Peg has Hoosier roots yet lived in the Archdiocese of Baltimore for several years until last August. Her educational background and parish experience will serve our ministry efforts very well. She is married to Jim and they have four children. Peg’s major responsibilities are in the areas of evangelization, the doctrinal aspects of RCIA catechesis, and adult faith formation with an emphasis on family-related catechetical matters that are now part of the responsibility of OCE. She is already hard at work in these areas and is collaborating closely as a team member in our Total Catholic Education effort. “Welcome aboard, Peg!”

Peg McEvoy can be reached at 236-1432 or (800)382-9836 ext. 1432 or by e-mail at pmcevoy@archindy.org.

---

**New Faces, New Places**

**Parish Administrators of Religious Education**

**New Faces**
- Mary Behe ~ St. Martin of Tours, Martinsville
- Shawn Brown ~ St. Rita, Indianapolis
- Sr. Mary Ann DeFazio, SP ~ St. Christopher, Indianapolis
- Christa Dohmen ~ St. John the Baptist, Dover, St. Joseph, St. Leon
- Francine Gettelfinger and Gayle Schrunk ~ St. Mary, Navilleton
- Christine Meeker ~ St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Cambridge City
- Michelle and Donn Paquette ~ St. Martin, Yorkville/St. Paul, New Alsace
- Kara Tsuleff ~ St. Lawrence, Lawrenceburg
- Barbara White ~ St. Gabriel, Connersville

**New Places**
- Michelle Fessell ~ St. Mary, Lanesville

---

**School Principals**

**New Faces**
- Forest “Rusty” Albertson ~ St. Mark, Indianapolis
- Susan Bumann-Riehl ~ St. Mary-of-the-Knobs, Floyds Knobs
- Gary Ferguson ~ St. Michael, Brookville
- Stephanie Hasecuster ~ St. Mary, Rushville
- Kristy Keith ~ St. Susanna, Plainfield
- Andrea Kraft ~ St. Mary, New Albany
- Judy Luhring ~ St. Nicholas, Sunman
- Amy McClain ~ St. Patrick, Terre Haute
- Karen White ~ St. Lawrence, Lawrenceburg

**New Places**
- Peggy Elson ~ Immaculate Heart, Indianapolis
- Bill Herman ~ St. Pius X, Indianapolis

---

**Youth Ministers**

**New Faces**
- Mary Barnstead ~ St. Luke, Indianapolis
- Zac Karanovich ~ St. Thomas Aquinas, Indianapolis
- Francesca Marino ~ St. Simon the Apostle, Indianapolis
- Anna Osterhoudt ~ St. Joe Hill, Sellersburg
- Elizabeth Ricke ~ Holy Name, Beech Grove
- Chris Schwartz ~ St. Bartholomew, Columbus
- Nicole Strasser ~ St. Michael, Indianapolis
- Tonya VanSkyock ~ St. Mary, Greensburg
- Mike Waters ~ Richmond Catholic Community

**New Places**
- Dave Gehrich ~ St. Maurice, Greensburg
- Anne Wolfley ~ St. Malachy, Brownsburg

---

**Welcome Teachers!**

**Lalanne Program Similar to Echo**

The Lalanne Program of the University of Dayton places intern teachers into our Catholic schools for two years of teaching. Similar to the Echo Program (see page five), the teachers earn their Masters Degree in Education during their summer months. The program started in the archdiocese in 2001 and there are currently five Lalanne teachers in our Catholic Schools. **Rachael Kooob** is a second year theology teacher at Cardinal Ritter High School. First year Lalanne teachers are **Alyssa Lux**, teaching Math, and **Julia Sandmass**, teaching theology at Cardinal Ritter High School; **Brooke Charlesworth**, teaching fourth grade at St. Andrew and St. Rita Catholic Academy; and **Anna Whitaker** who is teaching kindergarten at Central Catholic School. Welcome, Lalanne Teachers.
As educators and those involved in parish ministries we become accustomed to the shuffle and mild chaos every year during the first weeks of school as students descend upon their school and religious ed. classrooms. There are all the trappings of a new year: clean desks, new supplies and backpacks, sharpened pencils, and the smell of new crayons. You never forget that smell!

However, this year in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, we welcome a different type of student to our schools and parishes – Echo Catechetical Apprentices from the University of Notre Dame. These graduate students come back from their summer studies armed with the Catechism of the Catholic Church and their Bibles, excited, and with a renewed sense of vocation and mission in their Church.

The Echo program at Notre Dame is a two-year service program in which apprentices earn their Master of Arts degrees in theology in the summers while serving at our parishes during the school year under the guidance of a mentor. It is unique because it is the only program in the American Catholic Church that is currently placing graduate students into direct service to parishes. Upon graduation they will qualify as directors of religious education, youth ministers or Catholic school teachers, among other ministry options.

For five years now Echo apprentices have been calling the archdiocese their home, and this year we are welcoming back our largest community of apprentices. Returning for their second year are Meli Barber at Saint Barnabas, Indianapolis, and Lindsay Wilcox at Holy Name in Beech Grove. Joining us for their first year in Indianapolis parishes are Joe Pederson at Saint John and OCE Young Adult and College Campus Ministry; Natalie Helfrick at Nativity; Nic Kovatch at Saint Jude; and John Avila at Saint Gabriel.

The apprentices take on a wide variety of responsibilities in their heartfelt service to their Church. They serve as catechists, religion teachers, coaches, retreat coordinators and RCIA instructors. They are involved in liturgies and music ministry. They take part in youth activities and Theology on Tap; and, they come in contact with a multitude of parishioners across all generations.

So, this fall as we welcome back our students and youth, we also welcome our Echo apprentices. Whether you see them at a meeting or just pass by them at Mass, please help them feel welcome in our home so that it may become their home.

By Joshua Schaffner, Program Coordinator for Youth Ministry in the Office of Catholic Education and former Echo Apprentice

FOCUS at IUPUI

The Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) is an organization that seeks to help college students come to know Christ and the Catholic Church. We welcome FOCUS missionaries Alexandra Kale, Anne Marie Brummer, Matthew Johnson and Steve Rogers. Working with IUPUI chaplain, Fr. Rick Nagel, these four young adults – all in their 20’s and recent college graduates – have come to (IUPUI) with a very intentional ministry—to convert students to Jesus Christ. Based in Denver, FOCUS was founded in 1998 and currently ministers on 45 college campuses in 25 states, including Ball State University in Muncie. The missionaries minister full-time, leading small group Bible studies, organizing a couple of large campus events each academic year and doing lots of one-on-one mentoring. Father Rick foresees the FOCUS missionaries being able to effectively direct Catholic students to the new IUPUI Catholic Student Organization and to nearby St. John the Evangelist Parish in downtown Indy for its 7:00 p.m. Sunday Young Adult Mass and other campus ministry events. Pray for the success of FOCUS in Indy.

(To learn more about FOCUS, log on to www.focusonline.org)

Training for School Safety Planning is Complete

The last of seven workshops on Catholic School Safety Planning was held at the Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center on September 10, 2009. Some 42 people in teams of three to five came to learn about state-of-the-art emergency operations planning for their schools. There are now 244 trained administrators and team members in the schools of the archdiocese and the four private high schools. Several local first responders (police, fire, paramedics, etc.), who are volunteering to help their children’s schools, attended the September workshop.

In addition to the basics on school safety and security, the workshops covered the Janes/Safe Havens All Hazards Planning Templates© for school emergency preparedness planning. These are planning templates designed by experts in school safety and security that are customizable for each school situation. The process addresses planning in four stages: Prevention and Mitigation, Emergency Operations Planning, Crisis Response and Crisis Recovery. The planning is based on an expert Tactical Site Survey© process performed by a team at each school to identify potential hazards. A group of survey facilitators have received more intensive training on this process, so they can help other schools and serve as the “outside eyes” on the local team. Each survey/planning team is also to include local first responders as active members.

Each school attending a workshop received a CD-Rom disk with the complete set of planning templates and materials. The materials were provided and licensed to the schools by the Indiana Department of Education School Safety Specialist Academy and were adapted for use in Catholic schools by the Office of Catholic Education. The templates would have cost $10,000 to purchase and license to the schools. The presenters for the workshop series were Joe Peters and Virginia Kappner from OCE, and Tish Pyritz from the Catholic Charities School Counseling Services, who are all certified as Indiana School Safety Specialists. Workshop materials were provided at no cost to the school, but the schools will purchase special plan binders that were ordered in bulk for resale at a discount from OCE.

All Catholic schools are required to complete training and update their Emergency Operations Plans by December 31, 2009. While all schools have had emergency preparedness plans in place since at least 2000 as required by Indiana law, we believe the new plans will provide an extra measure of safety for students and address many more potential emergency situations.
Dear Colleagues and Friends of Catholic Education,

As we begin the new year, once again I find myself in transition. Honestly, I think all of us who serve in Catholic education often find ourselves in transition. For the most part, I find it healthy and challenging. Change brings challenge and for me challenge results in wonderful opportunities. I hope this is your experience as well. My new role as Chancellor of the Archdiocese has already afforded me experiences that have stretched my skills and assisted me in my continuing role as Executive Director of Catholic Education and Faith Formation. Who could have ever imagined the crossover?

Leadership within the Church does not change; only the delineation of roles and responsibilities. As educators and business leaders you can certainly identify with this. It is who we are as persons and how we lead which impacts growth, opportunity, and creates change. God has given me a wonderful opportunity. And, God’s plan is not necessarily our plan!

Every October, NCEA recognizes leaders in the Church and Catholic education. This year, we are pleased to have an honoree from the archdiocese at the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Awards in Washington, DC. Mr. Jerry Semler will be recognized as a dynamic business leader who has supported education here in the archdiocese for many years. He has been recognized as a Spirit of Service awardee along with his wife, Rosie. He has led many of our capital campaigns and fund drives, because he believes that all children, no matter their challenges, deserve a Catholic school education. Jerry has been our “rock” for longer than I have served as leader of OCE. It is my pleasure to know him, and for us to be able to thank him on the national stage for all he has done for Catholic education in this archdiocese. Thank you, Jerry.

God bless,

Mickey

Office of Catholic Education
Archdiocese of Indianapolis
P.O. Box 1410
Indianapolis, IN 46206-1410