Sixth Summer for Homeland Mission
By Elizabeth Jamison

From June 27 through July 2, 2010, some 51 high school students from across the archdiocese spent a week together in service to Indianapolis-based charitable organizations. This summer marked the sixth year for Homeland Mission, a unique service week that allows students to go on a “mission trip” without leaving the state. Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta once said, “You have to find your own Calcutta.” In search of their “own Calcutta,” groups of teens travelled to a different work site each day.

This year I served as the master of ceremonies for the week. I am a 2007 graduate of Cathedral High School and a senior at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN. I really enjoyed talking with the high school students, getting their perspectives on social justice, the importance of faith in their lives, and the challenges that high school inevitably presents. Another key component of the week was our shared community life as we lived at St. Bernadette Catholic Church. We began each morning with prayer, planned and led by the teens, focusing on our mission patron, St. Francis of Assisi. At day’s end, we would gather again to celebrate liturgy and end the evening together in prayer.

One worksite that had a great impact on my small group was the Archdiocesan Refugee Resettlement Program (Catholic Charities). The day began with an orientation in which we learned how the program works to prepare refugees to integrate successfully into their new homes and society. Afterwards, we helped organize a stock room of supplies for families that have recently fled to Indianapolis from their native countries. Later, we had the opportunity to visit a Burmese refugee family. The young adult son was eager to show us a video his friend had created of their emotional departure from the refugee camp in Nepal – their home for the past ten years. As we were departing, they told us they regretted not cooking a meal for us, so they gave us all sodas to take for our drive back to St. Bernadette. This could not have been a more profound teaching moment.

The family, which is scraping by through frugality and the generosity of others, did not hesitate to offer all of us a gift out of their kindness and richness of spirit. The teens will not forget this gesture and I know that as I begin my last year of college, I will not forget it either. Homeland Mission 2010 was a success!

OLG Named Blue Ribbon School!

U.S. Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, announced the names of 304 schools nationwide identified by the United States Department of Education as National Blue Ribbon Schools for 2010. Congratulations to Our Lady of the Greenwood School, Greenwood, for receiving this prestigious award as a High Performing School. OLG, the only private school recognized this year in Indiana, has earned the 23rd Blue Ribbon by schools in the archdiocese since 2003. Twenty-six archdiocesan schools have now earned a total of 32 National Blue Ribbons since the inception of the program – more than any other diocese in the nation.
early 19th century, through the legacy of faith schools in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis in the annual event traces the origins of Catholic education. This unique video retrospective for our fifteenth birthday celebration features our own Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein's leadership and support of Catholic schools especially in urban areas, and outlines both the challenges and opportunities left to us by Bishop Simon Bruté, St. Theodora Guérin and many others. It illustrates the building of many new schools by the beginning of the 20th century when attendance was mandated; then wars, depression, and the historic growth of Catholic schools following World War II. It continues to explain some of the vast changes in society and the Church following Vatican II and the renewal of the U.S. bishops' commitment to Catholic schools in the 1990s. The video traces the continuing legacy of our own Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein's leadership and support of Catholic schools especially in urban areas, and outlines both the challenges and opportunities in the future of Catholic school education.

**Distinguished Honorees for 2010**

**Career Achievement Awards**

Shirley Kloepfer, PhD
Prince of Peace Parish, Madison

William A. “Bill” Kuntz
St. Jude Parish, Indianapolis

James A. “Jim” Schellinger, AIA
Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Indianapolis

**The Archie and Bettie Smith Family**

Various Indianapolis Parishes

**Community Service Award**

Michael G. “Mike” Welsh, M.D.
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Carmel

For tables, please contact Landa Alexander in the Office of Stewardship and Development
lalexander@archindy.org, 317-236-1447 or (800)382-9836, ext. 1447

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**SS. Francis and Clare School Expansion Dedicated**

One of the newest Catholic schools in the archdiocese, SS. Francis and Clare, Greenwood, just opened in 2006. But, a rapidly growing parish population called for expansion of the school and parish facilities just four years later. Archbishop Daniel celebrated mass, dedicated and blessed the new facilities before an enthusiastic congregation on August 8.

The school grew from 118 students last year to 183 this year through fifth grade. The new facility has capacity for two sections of each grade through grade 8 and up to 450 students. The addition nearly doubled the size of the parish plant including a large new gymnasium and parish hall/cafeateria.

Veteran principal, Betty Popp, starting her first year as principal at SS. Francis and Clare, was very excited at the dedication. “It’s a thrill,” she told The Criterion, “It’s sort of a dream that I’ve always had to be [in] on the beginning of a new facility.”

The thoughts and prayers of the entire archdiocesan faith community are extended to SS. Francis and Clare Parish and School.

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**Cake, Coffee and Confirmation: Filling, Fulfilling and Downright Thrilling!**

"This was a great opportunity." Several parish Confirmation coordinators shared similar feedback after experiencing one of our four evening sessions held throughout the archdiocese in August.

Cake, Coffee and Confirmation was a 2½-hour workshop for adults who work with young people helping them prepare for this sacrament. Kay Scoville, Director of Youth Ministry and Ken Ogorek, Director of Catechesis for OCE, facilitated sessions in Clarksville, Indianapolis, Seymour and Batesville. Nearly 100 attendees representing nearly as many of our 151 parishes and missions capitalized on this chance to enhance efforts at Confirmation preparation.

"Our youth ministers, PAREs and others want the experience of preparing for Confirmation to be a positive one for young people and their families," said Kay Scoville. "These evenings were a great step in helping our Office of Catholic Education gain a fuller understanding of this effort as it currently unfolds in our parishes so that we can resource Confirmation coordinators as effectively as possible."

OCE isn’t the only archdiocesan agency involved, said Ken Ogorek. "We plan to follow up on these sessions by meeting with folks from our Worship Office, Chancery and additional areas. We all want Confirmation prep to be part of a broader evangelization, catechesis and liturgical experience that will encourage youth and families to be engaged in the life of our Catholic Church for the rest of their lives."

Confirmation coordinators unable to attend the sessions will have access to an audio download of the evening (as recorded in one location) and opportunity to offer feedback as the attendees did. OCE thanks all parish and deanery leaders who hosted us – the cake was delicious! And, thanks to all Confirmation Coordinators who collaborate with Archbishop Daniel's pastoral staff in bringing young people to experience the grace of this sacrament.

Please look for the audio download on our Office of Catholic Education webpage www.archindy.org/oe/Public Downloads, Misc., Cake, Coffee and Confirmation.
The 2010 Archdiocese of Indianapolis Office of Catholic Education annual Administrators conference was held at the French Lick Springs Resort in August. This annual conference celebrated its 25th anniversary of providing Catholic school principals, parish administrators of religious education and parish youth ministers two days of spiritual renewal, professional development and time to network and reacquaint with friends in a pleasant setting. With over 200 administrators attending, this conference has developed into the signature event for bringing administrators and education/faith formation ministries together to share in their common mission of Total Catholic Education. The administrators participated in a series of breakout sessions that included updates on the New Translation of the 3rd edition of the Roman Missal, the Impact of the Social Networking Websites and the Role of the New Administrator with School and Faith Formation Commissions. Attendees celebrated liturgy together with Vicar General, Msgr. Joseph Schaedel. Our new OCE Executive Director, Harry A. Plummer, was formally introduced to attendees. Highlighting this year’s theme of “One in Faith, Joyful in Hope; Enduring in Love,” Harry affirmed the work of the administrators and encouraged them in their ministries.

The Good Word

Archdiocesan ISTEP Results to Continue to Show Improvement
By Dr. Ron Costello, Superintendent and Kathy Mears, Assistant Superintendent

Superintendent of Catholic Schools, Dr. Ron Costello, released the 2010 Indiana Statewide Testing for Education Progress (ISTEP+) results, and students across the Archdiocese made significant gains. The assessment resulted in Archdiocesan wide passing rates of 91 percent in English/language arts, and 90 percent in Mathematics for the students who took the assessment compared to Indiana statewide passing rates of 74 percent in English/language arts, and 76 percent in Mathematics.

“Achieving increases of 1 percent passing rates in English/language arts and a 2 percent increase in Mathematics for students in all Archdiocesan schools is a step forward. The most important change is the number of students improving within the Pass to Pass Plus category. Those percentages increased by 2 percent for English/language arts and by 5 percent for mathematics. I extend sincere congratulations to all of our high-performing and improving schools for their hard work and tenacity,” said Costello. “I am excited to see these gains across the Archdiocese and am very optimistic that students will continue on this path to excellence.”

The Indiana Department of Education goal is that 90 percent of the state’s students are passing both the English/language arts and mathematics portions of the ISTEP+ by 2012. In 2010, 30 of 65 Archdiocesan schools hit the 90 percent benchmark compared to 35 public schools across the state. This was up from 25 Archdiocesan schools in 2009. A new addition to this group of 90% achieving schools is St. Rose of Lima School in Franklin, Indiana. St. Rose of Lima increased the number of students passing from 86 percent in 2009 to 94 percent in 2010, and administrators attribute the increase to the hard work of staff, parental involvement, extended work on reading, and other interventions for all students in kindergarten through eighth grade.

All ISTEP+ information, including performance data for the Archdiocese and school, is available from the Office of Catholic Education at 317-236-1430 or online at www.doe.in.gov/istep.

Beth Curtain Honored as Youth Ministry Servant Leader of the Year 2009-2010

The recipient of the 2009-2010 Youth Ministry Servant Leader of the Year is Beth Curtin, Coordinator of Youth Ministry for St. Lawrence Parish in Indianapolis. Beth is also a religion teacher for St. Lawrence School who stepped into the position of youth minister three years ago.

The following are some testimonials of the awesome work Beth does to build up God’s kingdom: “Beth Curtin understands one of the key principles in ministering to youth. First and foremost, students want to be loved. And, if they feel loved and accepted, then they will listen to what you have to say about God. Beth doesn’t just walk the talk. Beth walks the walk.”

“Beth never emphasizes the personal challenges that life has put in her path. Between an ongoing fight with cancer and helping her daughter walk again after a debilitating car accident in November, her plate has been very full. However, in spite of these obstacles, her life is full of the fruits of the Spirit. She is a living, breathing, walking testimony to how God can use us in this world if we let Him.”

Congratulations to Beth and to St. Lawrence Parish for fostering a great youth ministry program!
SAVE THE DATES!
Archdiocesan Youth Ministry
Upcoming Events

“Pursuit of Glory”
Indianapolis Catholic Youth Conference (ICYC)
The Indianapolis Catholic Youth Conference is an opportunity for all young people from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and the Diocese of Lafayette to come together in prayer, community and fun to celebrate their faith!

The schedule includes:
.. a keynote presentation by Father Tony Ricard
   www.fathertony.com
.. the music of Sarah Bauer
   www.sarahbauer.com
.. presentations by Popple
   www.popple.us
.. and Mass celebrated by
Archbishop Daniel Buechlein and
Bishop Timothy Doherty (Diocese of Lafayette)

Sunday, November 7, 2010
11:00 AM - 8:30 PM
Bishop Chatard High School, Indianapolis
Sponsored by the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and Diocese of Lafayette in Indiana
Cost: $40 per person ~ Register through parish or school
Information: www.archindy.org/youth

“Called to Glory”
National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC)
The National Catholic Youth Conference is an exciting, biennial three-day experience of prayer, community, and empowerment for Catholic teenagers and their adult chaperones from across the United States. The schedule includes keynote addresses, concurrent and workshop sessions addressing a wide variety of topics. There are also opportunities for liturgy, reconciliation, prayer and worship, recreation and special activities such as concerts, exhibits, and an interactive thematic park.

November 17-19, 2011
Lucas Oil Stadium and the
Indiana Convention Center, Indianapolis
Sponsored by the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM)
ValLimar Jansen, Keynote
www.afwmusic.com
Information coming soon at: www.ncyc.nfcym.org

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Mission to Haiti
by Missy Brassie

As a group of thirteen young adult leaders and a priest from Indianapolis, we journeyed to the small, poor country of Haiti in May. The sights, sounds and smells of poverty engulfed us as we entered their world and were confronted with a slice of the hard life they live with no relief. The scenes of poverty played out before us were devastating. In the face of Haiti’s grave condition, we felt helpless, faltering as we tried to envision answers or solutions. Yet, our mission was this: “do small things with great love.” Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, patroness of our trip, encouraged us with these words.

During our stays in two different villages in the northwest part of the country, we sought to embrace each person we encountered with love. Our days there took us among the people, walking their village streets, taking in all that their humble lives had to offer. How wonderfully surprised we were by the response of our Haitian brothers and sisters. Their arms embraced us with unashed affection. They welcomed us to their homes and to their churches when we joined them for Mass in Creole. Often, our differences in language prevented us from communicating verbally, but that did not stop us from speaking in other ways. We found ourselves caught off guard by the hospitality and generosity they showed us, the love and joy with which we were greeted and the prayer and strength from above that clearly carries them through their day.

We presented every school child we met (hundreds and hundreds) with a small red bracelet that simply said, “Hearts for Haiti,” as a gift and a sign of hope for better tomorrows. Yet, in their humble reception of our little offering, looking up at us with captivating eyes, we grew hearts for Haiti ourselves. As we have returned, prayers serve as our continuous contribution, and we search our hearts for ways to further grow in relationship and service to the poorest of the poor. May we all heed the voice of God as He calls us to love.

---SAVE THE DATE!!---

Golf Fore Faith ~ Monday, May 2, 2011
Crooked Stick Golf Club

Margaret Hendricks, Program Coordinator for A Promise to Keep and event chair, is pleased to announce that the Office of Catholic has been approved by the Crooked Stick Golf Club (CSGC) Board of Directors to host our second annual “Golf Fore Faith” outing on Monday, May 2, 2011. So, mark your calendars and SAVE THE DATE!

This past May, OCE hosted the inaugural “Golf Fore Faith” outing at Crooked Stick Golf Club. Although these are challenging times, the team in the Office of Catholic Education continues to find new and exciting ways to encourage and support our educational initiatives, like A Promise to Keep and Young Adult and College Campus Ministries. The opportunity to host an outing at this exclusive course is a unique opportunity because CSGC only makes this private course available to four charitable organizations in any given year.

The inaugural outing raised $5,500 and each participant received a framed, authentic CSGC flag, personally signed by both Pete and Alice Dye! Value = Priceless! A golf outing is a way to build community and bring people together to enjoy laughter and camaraderie as well as a fun, effective way to raise money. Plan now to come and enjoy this incredible course and help support some of the educational initiatives of OCE on May 2.
Adult Faith Formation: Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us

The Archdiocesan Adult Faith Formation Team seeks to further the agenda set forth in the US Bishop’s document, Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us (OHWB), by affirming the solid ongoing efforts of parishes in the area of adult faith formation.

One goal of the team is to “promote awareness of the priority of adult faith formation.” In moving toward this goal, Peg McEvoy, Associate Director for Evangelization and Family Catechesis and team members facilitated a process with the parish administrators of religious education (PAREs) at the OCE Administrator’s Conference Aug. 2 – 3, 2010.

The administrators were first asked to consider the events and programs under their supervision that facilitate adult faith formation – teacher and catechist formation, parent components of sacramental preparation, parent components of chastity education, etc. Then they were asked to consider the parish adult faith formation areas that are not under their supervision, for example Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults, Bible studies, youth ministry leader formation, parish missions, and homilies.

The US Bishops cite “…the quality of the liturgies, the extent of shared decision making, the priorities in the parish budget, the degree of commitment to social justice, the quality of the other catechetical programs…” (OHWB, par. 118) as having a major impact on adult faith formation. This list goes beyond any one parish staff person’s job description, so it reminds us how important it is to communicate and collaborate.

In some parishes, communication about various areas of ministry happens regularly through commissions, councils and/or staff. However, for parishes where communication is difficult, the team encouraged beginning the process of bridge-building between areas of ministry. Bridges may need to be built with other staff members or possibly with other parishes. As a last step, the PAREs were asked to name some actions they could take during this program year to facilitate and/or begin building bridges in adult faith formation.

It is important, however, to remember that the work of adult faith formation is not confined to religious educators. To all of us (PARE, pastor, principal, and parishioner, alike) the US Bishops say, “Let us do our part with creativity and vigor, our hearts aflame with love, to empower adults to know and live the message of Jesus. This is the Lord’s work. In the power of the Spirit, it will not fail but will bear lasting fruit for the life of the world” (OHWB, paragraph 183).

The Good Word
Dear Friends,

We hope your review of this issue of *The Good Word* has been both enjoyable and profitable. As you can see, there are a lot of great things happening! Please remember that we welcome your input concerning this publication and strongly encourage you to share your story ideas and suggestions with us.

Since the beginning of the program year can be challenging on many levels for all of us in educational ministry, I thought I would share a little story that helps me keep things in the proper perspective. Cardinal John O’Connor had just been ordained a bishop and noticed that Mother Teresa was present at the ceremony. When he went over to introduce himself, she looked at him and said, “Give God permission.” Reflecting on the encounter years later, Cardinal O’Connor wrote, “That was all (she said). Give God permission. Let God work through you. Let God use your hands. Let God speak to people through your lips. Let people look into your eyes and see God. It’s as simple as that. Give God permission. I don’t, most of the time, but when I give Him permission and get out of the way, He does an awful lot.”

Let’s do our best to follow this great advice, taking encouragement as we do so from the words of John Paul II: “Let grow in you the desire for great and noble projects. Nourish a sense of solidarity; these are the signs of the divine action in your hearts. Place at the use of your communities the talents which Providence has lavished upon you. The more ready you are to give yourselves to God and to others the more you will discover the authentic meaning of life. God expects much from you.” (*Message for World Day of Prayer for Vocations*, 1996)

Have a great year. I look forward to seeing you soon.

*Pax et Bonum,*

Harry

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