You Are Needed to Make NCYC a Success!

So, you want to be part of the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis on November 17-19? Lucky for you, there are several ways to get involved.

If you're a priest, the estimated 25,000 young people in attendance will need your presence to help them as they use the gathering to grow in their lives of faith.

“The sacramental moments at NCYC are often the high points of the experience – from the celebration of the Eucharist, to the opportunity for Confession, to the Eucharistic procession,” explained Fr. Patrick Beidelman, chair of the NCYC liturgical committee. “They are all key moments in the young Church being connected to God’s powerful presence.”

Organizers estimate they will need 240 priests to hear confessions in two-hour shifts on November 18 and 19.

“A priest may sign up to serve for one shift or as many shifts as they prefer. Response cards were mailed to all priests in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, and the Dioceses of Lafayette and Evansville,” said Tammy Becht, who is co-chair of the liturgy committee. “Priests should note that they must also register as a volunteer for NCYC to be credentialed properly.”

Parishes and Schools

Parishes and Catholic schools from throughout the archdiocese can be a part of NCYC. The Adopt-A-Delegation program offers them an opportunity to host and provide true “Hoosier Hospitality” to all NCYC participants, according to Anne Wolfley, general hospitality chair for NCYC.

“As the host diocese, we wish to share the spirit that Indiana is known for by sharing the opportunity for Catholic Hoosiers to share a Mass or meal, write letters of welcome, provide mementos for participants of their trip to Indiana, and simply let them know that they are being prayed for while at NCYC,” she said.

“Each participating Catholic school or parish will be paired with a participating delegation from across the United States and will have the ability to provide their own level of hospitality in a unique way. No two schools or parishes will have the same experience as each delegation and each local community is vibrant and alive with the gifts of the Holy Spirit in many different ways.”

If your school or faith community is interested in Adopting a Delegation, please contact Annie Wolfley at awolfley@stmalachy.org.

If you are interested in a sponsorship for NCYC, contact Anne Wessel at sawessel@comcast.net or Beth Leonard at Beth.Leonard@sbcglobal.net.
12th Annual SPRED Dinner Dance - March 3, 2012
The 12th Annual SPRED Dinner Dance is set for Saturday, March 3, 2012 at the Marten House in Indianapolis. The Special Religious Education Development Program (SPRED) is an endeavor of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis to provide faith formation and religious development to persons with developmental disabilities and special needs. Currently over 100 people around the diocese are served by SPRED groups. This special evening is an opportunity for SPRED participants, volunteers, parents and supporters to gather in celebration while supporting the primary annual fund-raiser. For information or to be sure to get an invitation, please contact Ken Ogorek, Director of Catechesis, at kogorek@archindy.org.

Golf Fore Faith Outing - Monday, May 14, 2012
The Office of Catholic Education is hosting the third annual “Golf Fore Faith” outing at Crooked Stick Golf Club on Monday, May 14, 2012. If you are interested in receiving an informational flyer about registering your foursome or advertising your business as a sponsor, please contact Margaret Hendricks at mhendricks@archindy.org.

Homeland Mission 2011
How would you describe a life changing experience? For me, and many other youth from the archdiocese, it takes only three words: “Homeland Mission Project.” Homeland is a single week of learning about the Catholic Faith through the example of Church figures, learning about solidarity through simple meals together, and learning about the meaning of true love and service through local people personifying Christ to us daily. Homeland participants learn to see Christ through the needy and in the most unexpected places – their own backyards.

The Homeland Mission offers service, spiritual, and social experiences. I’ve done everything from feeding the hungry on the streets of Indianapolis to calling bingo numbers at a local nursing home. I’ve completed the annual horse stall cleaning at Morning Dove Hippotherapy Farm and witnessed the first steps of a young boy, made possible by this organization. I’ve painted with children at St. Mary’s Child Center and taught African refugees to paint walls in their new community center. There’s no limit to the number of life-altering opportunities made available to me through this experience.

While I’m saddened, having recently completed my final year as a Homeland Mission participant, the friends, the memories, and the future opportunities that I’m left with will remain with me always. The profound knowledge of our Catholic Faith, its figures, and its foundation has inspired me in the most incredible of ways. In the words of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, the Homeland 2011 Honorary Figure of Faith, the youth who participate in the Homeland Mission Project learn to “…live simply so that others may simply live.”

By Dee Elfers, a senior in high school and a parishioner at St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross in Bright, IN.

Parent Educational Choice Has Arrived!
Over the last twenty years, states and cities across the nation have implemented educational choice programs mostly for children who attended failing public schools. This year, Indiana passed its own ground-breaking legislation. Indiana’s law is different in that it allows some middle class as well as low-income parents to choose a nonpublic school for their child. State funding will now focus on providing access to a quality education in a variety of educational settings. When school doors opened in August, over 1000 students received the new state funded voucher to apply toward their Catholic education in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

The program provides scholarships to students by allowing a portion of state funds allocated for a child in the public schools to follow him/her to a non-public school if the family meets income requirements (up to $62,000 for a family of four). Eligible students must have been enrolled in a public school for two semesters before they can receive a scholarship, excluding kindergarten. Catholic schools that participate in Indiana’s school choice programs will not lose their autonomy. Our schools will maintain their own admissions policies and practices, and will still teach religion to all students so long as the rules are the same for all students seeking admission.

The new law also allows for any student who previously received a scholarship through a Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO) to receive a voucher. Corporations, businesses or individuals who donate to SGO scholarships can receive a 50 percent tax credit on their Indiana taxes as well as their federal tax benefit. They can also direct their donation to a specific school or schools. Kindergartners who are on an SGO scholarship for one year can then qualify for a voucher in first grade. By working with a local SGO, The Educational CHOICE Charitable Trust, a Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO). Donors may direct their SGO scholarship donations to a specific Catholic school or schools. For larger gifts, CCSV event support may be earmarked within the gift.

For information contact Rosemary O’Brien at 236-1568, (800)382-9836, ext. 1568 or robrien@archindy.org.

Give Through CCSV
The annual Celebrating Catholic School Values dinner (CCSV) will be held on October 26, 2011 (see article on page five). For the first time donors to CCSV will be able to direct donations through the Educational CHOICE Charitable Trust, a Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO). Donors may direct their SGO scholarship donations to a specific Catholic school or schools. For larger gifts, CCSV event support may be earmarked within the gift.

The Good Word
A New Resource for the RCIA in Every Parish

Archbishop Buechlein promulgated Fullness of Truth: Doctrinal Guidelines for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults in May of this year. These guidelines provide clarity regarding doctrinal elements necessary for appropriate formation of adults preparing for the Sacraments of Initiation and include use of the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults. The development of the guidelines was a collaborative effort between the Office of Catholic Education and the Archdiocesan Initiation Committee. You can find the guidelines by clicking on the link on the RCIA webpage: http://www.archindy.org/evangelization/cia.html. During the month of June, Peg McEvoy, Associate Director for Evangelization and Family Catechesis presented workshops on the guidelines in various regions of the archdiocese in each case assisted by a member of the Initiation Committee. Please contact Peg at pmcevoy@archindy.org for information about this new resource.

An Evening Focused on Parish Small Groups

The Office of Catholic Education and the Office of Stewardship and Development collaborated on the “2011 Regional Stewardship and Development Meetings” throughout September. This effort provided an opportunity to highlight the important connection between parishioners actively engaged in their parish, small group membership and the need for solid Catholic resources for small groups. All meetings began with a panel discussion on parish small groups featuring Ken Ogorek, Director of Catechesis, and David Milroy, Executive Director of Stewardship and Development. They were joined by pastors/parish life coordinators from each region. Small group discussions on the challenges and successes of parish small groups followed the panel discussion. OCE prepared a handout for participants featuring solid Catholic resources for parish small groups and tips for starting and sustaining the groups. For more information on parish small groups contact Ken at: kogorek@archindy.org.

Introducing the Archdiocesan Hispanic Leadership Institute

There is a new archdiocesan effort underway that is a direct response to our Lord’s call to discipleship for all his people. The Archdiocesan Hispanic Leadership Institute (AHLI) was launched earlier this month under the leadership of Brother Moises Gutierrez, OFM, Archdiocesan Coordinator for Hispanic Ministry, with the help of many committed volunteers. The Office of Catholic Education is working closely with the Office of Multicultural Ministry on this initiative.

AHLI supports parishes and apostolic movements that are committed to Hispanic ministry. Its mission is to “promote, form, and develop pastoral leaders offering them the appropriate and necessary formation, skills, and attitudes to face our current reality and to lead our Hispanic community to a commitment and participation in the life and mission of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis” (AHLI Mission Statement).

The institute is offering Spanish-language lay formation opportunities in pastoral leadership, continuing formation for catechists and leaders in parish ministries and apostolic movements and formation for youth leadership. There will also be workshops and programs offering opportunities to share and celebrate Hispanic traditions and to encourage intercultural relations. The ultimate goal is the mutual transformation in Christ that intercultural relations can bring.

The formation process for Hispanic ministers is a two-year process. The program is designed to be a resource for parishes and other Church organizations in preparing Hispanic Catholics for leadership roles, providing opportunities to acquire knowledge, develop skills, and respond to the call of discipleship in order to be effective leaders. After completing the process, there will be continuing education opportunities through workshops and courses as well as English language training. There is also support for strategic planning and team development.

The process of formation for Hispanic youth leaders will last one year. Although still in the development stage, the desired outcomes are: personal, spiritual, and pastoral growth; ability to work collaboratively and communicate effectively; respect for diversity; self-confidence; deeper understanding of Scripture and Theology; ability to competently and professionally carry out ministry; and a desire for continued spiritual growth and learning.

For non-Hispanic ministers, AHLI offers continuing education related to ministering to the Hispanic community. A series of four workshops will be offered starting in November on such topics as “Finding Unity in Our Diversity,” “Catholic Social Teachings on Immigration,” and “Pastoral Ministry, A Call to Intercultural Dialogue.”

For more information on the Archdiocesan Hispanic Leadership Institute or Hispanic ministry in general, contact Brother Moises Gutierrez at mgutierrez@archindy.org.
The 2011 Archdiocese of Indianapolis Office of Catholic Education annual administrators conference was held at the French Lick Springs Resort in August. The summer conference gives parish administrators time to relax, reflect and reinvigorate their vocation to serve others. This year’s keynote address was given by Father Pat Beidelman. Father Pat led parish administrators of religious education, youth ministers, school administrators and parish priests in “Understanding the New Translation of the Mass and Calling the Church Deeper into the Mystery We Celebrate.” Breakout topics included sessions on the new state school voucher program and what it means for our schools and a panel discussion with pastors, DRE’s and principals on ways to build strong parish leadership teams. Br. Moises Gutierrez, OFM, Hispanic Ministry Coordinator for the archdiocese presented on issues of intercultural competency and the Church’s mission to evangelize. Dobie Mosier, Executive Director, Youth and Young Adult Ministry and CYO for the Diocese of Cleveland presented a strategic process designed to assist parish leaders in “Building Strong Catholic Families: Strong Catholic Youth programs.”

This annual summer conference broke an attendance record by hosting over two hundred administrators. Also of note was the record number of clergy participating in this event. Participants were commissioned as servant leaders of their parish ministries in a closing liturgy celebrated by the new Moderator of the Curia, Msgr. Bill Stumpf.

97 Percent of Catholic Schools in Top Two Performance Categories

Archdiocesan schools are making excellent progress under the state’s accountability law, Public Law 221. Indiana’s comprehensive accountability plan for K-12 schools, was passed by the legislature in 1999 with broad bipartisan backing and the support of the business and education communities. P.L. 221 places Indiana school corporations and schools into one of five categories (A-F) based upon “performance” and “improvement” data from the Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress-Plus (ISTEP+).

Placements are based on the percentage of all students who pass English/language arts and mathematics tests (averaged across subjects and grade levels) and the improvement in the passing percentage of students over time. Ninety-seven percent of the archdiocesan schools (65) versus 51 percent of all Indiana public schools (941) earned the top two P.L. 221 categories while one percent of archdiocesan school (1) and 20 percent of all public schools (365) placed in the bottom two categories. Roughly one percent of archdiocesan schools (1) versus 29 percent of all public schools (536) fell in the middle category, C - Academic Progress.

The archdiocesan and public schools statewide category breakdowns are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Archdiocese</th>
<th>Public Schools</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A (Exemplary Progress)</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B (Commendable Progress)</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C (Academic Progress)</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D (Academic Watch)</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F (Academic Probation)</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: Schools placed in the lowest P.L. 221 category, “F-Academic Probation” are subject to interventions designed to provide the additional support needed to improve student achievement. Charter schools and accredited nonpublic schools are placed into categories but are exempt from consequences under the law. For more information on Public Law 221, including data for individual corporations and schools, visit [www.doe.state.in.us/pl221](http://www.doe.state.in.us/pl221). For more information contact Superintendent, Dr. Ron Costello at rcostello@archindy.org.
The Archdiocese of Indianapolis will sponsor the 16th annual Celebrating Catholic School Values: Scholarship and Career Achievement Awards dinner on Wednesday, October 26, 2011 at the new JW Marriott Hotel in downtown Indianapolis. A reception will begin at 6:00 p.m. followed by the dinner/program from 6:30-9:00 p.m. Since 1996 this event has featured nationally recognized keynote speakers, showcased the effectiveness of our Catholic schools and honored some 80 servant-leaders for their values and accomplishments. Five honorees who are outstanding “products” of Catholic education will be honored this year with Career Achievement Awards. They are:

Eduardo A. Parada  
Holy Spirit Parish, Indianapolis

Rev. Msgr. Joseph (J.J.) Riedman  
Retired priest of the Archdiocese

Robert (Bob) and Ann Steiner  
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, New Albany

Glenn A. Tebbe  
Indiana Catholic Conference, St. Mary Parish, Greensburg

Louis M. Wright, M.D.  
St. Andrew Parish, Indianapolis

This year our keynote speaker will be Dr. Tony Bennett, Indiana State School Superintendent and a product of St. Anthony School and Our Lady of Providence High School in Clarksville. He also began his teaching career at Providence. Dr. Bennett will talk about true educational choice in Indiana and how it can help all schools to improve.

More than $4.4 million has been raised through this event in the past 15 years through corporate and individual investments to aid our most needy elementary and high school students in central and southern Indiana. This year provides us with an unprecedented opportunity to assist families with the cost of Catholic education. The new school choice initiatives passed by the Indiana Legislature this summer will allow us to assist more families, to invite more families to enroll their children in our schools, and to qualify kindergarten students for the new state scholarships (vouchers).

For the first time, many donors will be able to realize significant tax benefits. This year some donations can be directed through the Educational CHOICE Charitable Trust, a Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO) under the new law (see article). Individual or corporate donors who qualify are eligible to take a 50 percent credit against their state tax liability as well as a federal deduction.

To learn more about attending the event and SGO tax credit Scholarships, please contact Rosemary O’Brien in the Office of Stewardship and Development: 236-1568 or (800) 382-9836, ext. 1568 or robrien@archindy.org. See the CCSV Webpage at www.archindy.org/ccsv.

John Jacobi  
Youth Ministry Servant Leader of the Year

John Jacobi, veteran youth minister and DRE at Saint. Michael Parish, Bradford, is the 2011 Youth Ministry Servant Leader of the Year. According to his nominator, Marlene Stammerman, “John really ‘gets’ the youth ministry aspect of his job.”

“He has a true vision of youth ministry rooted in a comprehensive approach as articulated in the USCCB document, Renewing the Vision. He has an amazing gift of being present to parish youth and their families. Those active in St. Michael’s parish consistently share what a great guy John is. So, I asked them what makes him great? Their responses included:

“He’s there for my kids; I know they have someone to talk to.”
“He makes church fun and something we all want to be a part of.”
“John helped me really learn how to love God and my faith.”
“He plans a lot of cool stuff for us to do.”
“St. Michael’s feels like my second home.”
“I struggled with where to share my gifts in the parish and John helped me to discover them and taught me how to share them.”

According to Marlene, “John is also an amazing presence in our New Albany Deanery ministry. He is active and promotes deanery events. He takes the lead on summer mission trips to Kentucky and volunteers on various committees and area projects. He has a true love for the Catholic Faith and a humble heart that opens the door for young and old to enter into the holy.”

Please Help Us Welcome Kara!

OCE Welcomes First Ever Assistant Director for Special Religious Education

For over a year we have been discerning how we can better serve persons with disabilities especially in faith formation. After receiving budget clearance we are pleased to announce the fruits of our discernment process – a revised full-time position and a new OCE staff member to serve you, Kara Favata!

Kara will serve people with special needs as our first-ever Assistant Director for Special Religious Education. Her three-pronged efforts will seek to:
1) Raise awareness of disabilities among parishioners; 2) Assist catechetical leaders with inclusive techniques and strategies; and 3) Serve as a resource person for SPRED (Special Religious Development) ministry for developmentally disabled parishioners throughout the archdiocese.

Kara earned two degrees from Xavier University, Cincinnati, including a master’s in special education. She has served as a special education teacher in several settings while volunteering as a parish catechist. “I’m very happy to be able to combine my background in special needs with work that’s directly related to my Catholic faith,” states Kara. Please extend a hearty welcome to the newest member of our OCE team, Kara Favata! Contact her at 236-1448 or kfavata@archindy.org.
“God is really amazing. My ears are exactly where they need to be to support my glasses.” This fourth grader’s insight into God’s providence came to mind as I reflected on Indiana’s new educational choice law - the nation’s broadest school voucher program. This is occurring at a time when the archdiocese is blessed with extremely dedicated and talented Catholic school administrators. With the expert assistance of our tireless OCE Catholic Schools Team, these school leaders have invited over 1,000 students into 55 of our 68 Catholic schools with state vouchers. Join me both in thanking God for their fine work and in praying for the future of this exciting educational opportunity.

Other ways in which God’s providential care is shining through our OCE efforts include, to name a few, preparations for the arrival of 25,000 plus high school students in Indy as we host the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC), November 18-19; the expansion of our ministry to persons with disabilities; our annual Celebrating Catholic School Values event, October 26; the promulgation of Fullness of Truth: Doctrinal Guidelines for RCIA, and the Hispanic Leadership Institute in collaboration with the Office of Multicultural Ministry.

Please support our educational leaders in prayer at this time of great challenge and opportunity. Let us hold fast to our common hope that our programs and institutions become ever more vibrant places to encounter the living God who in Jesus Christ reveals his transforming love and truth (cf. Spe Salvi, 4). Let us also remember that hope (an often undervalued virtue) will not disappoint. I will never forget being present at Catholic University in April 2008 when Pope Benedict XVI called our educational ministry an “…outstanding apostolate of hope” and concluded his address to Catholic educational leaders by saying: “To all of you I say, bear witness to hope. Nourish your witness with prayer. Account for the hope that characterizes your lives (cf. 1 Pet 3:15) by living the truth which you propose to your students. Help them to know and love the One you have encountered, whose truth and goodness you have experienced with joy.” Fidelity to this beautiful exhortation will invariably lead us into deeper spiritual growth and increase our effectiveness in providing those we serve with an education in faith. And providing an education in faith, the Holy Father reminded us at that meeting, will in turn nurture the soul of our nation.

God bless,

Harry A. Plummer
Executive Director

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