The Good Word from The Office of Catholic Education is published three times annually and shared with the following groups: Pastors/PLCs, Parish Administrators of Religious Education, Catholic School Administrators, Parish Youth Ministers, Education Commission/Board Presidents and Friends of Catholic Education. Your contribution of ideas for stories and your comments are welcome!

In Today’s Good Word….

◆ Celebrating Catholic School Values: Scholarship and Career Achievement Awards Honorees ... Page 2
◆ “I’m Caught”... a SPRED catechist reflection ... Page 3
◆ The Case for Technology ... Page 4
◆ Catholic School Secretary Professional Development Day ... Page 5
◆ Reflections from Harry Plummer ... Back Cover

If you would like to receive The Good Word by e-mail, please send the phrase “Good Word by e-mail” to Cindy Clark at cclark@archindy.org. The Good Word can also be viewed on our website. www.archindy.org/oco

Opening Session NCYC, 2011, Lucas Oil Stadium

Indianapolis at both the Indiana Convention Center and Lucas Oil Stadium. Estimated to bring 24,000 participants from around the country, NCYC is one of the largest gatherings of Catholic young people in the nation. The theme for this year is Signed.Sealed.Delivered, reflecting our rich and distinctive Catholic sacramental heritage. Registration is fully underway and the Archdiocese of Indianapolis is expecting a record number of registrations this year. We anticipate 1,400 Archindy participants from 75 parish/school groups with 1000 volunteers helping out. There will be three general sessions, more than 100 workshops with over 85 different speakers, a talent show, comedy club and service projects. Please pray for all those planning and attending this amazing gathering of young people. ✝✝

Youth Pilgrimage to NCYC to Celebrate the Conclusion of the Year of Faith
Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R. and Bishop Christopher J. Coyne invite all high school youth of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis to the closing Liturgy of NCYC (National Catholic Youth Conference) 2013 in celebration of the closing of the Year of Faith. Please offer to any youth of your parish, high school campus ministry or religion classes, who for whatever reason were unable to attend the entire conference, the opportunity to experience the larger young church by participating in this pilgrimage opportunity! The closing Liturgy will be celebrated at Lucas Oil Stadium on Saturday, November 23rd, at 8:00 p.m. There is no cost to attend this event. Parishes and schools are encouraged to organize groups and must register online at www.archindy.org by October 31, 2013 to attend this event.

NCYC Volunteers Welcome!
Creating a safe and exceptional experience for one of the largest gatherings of Catholic young people in the nation would not be possible without the help of over 1000 volunteers in a variety of roles. The Archdiocese of Indianapolis is in the process of recruiting this valuable help.

For more information, or to register as an NCYC volunteer, visit us at: http://www.archindy.org/youth/ncycvolunteer.html.

NATIONAL CATHOLIC COLLEGIATE CONFERENCE
Occurring simultaneously with NCYC is the National Catholic Collegiate Conference (NCCC). This conference will take place at the Indianapolis Marriott Downtown and is for college-age and post-graduate young adults. Like NCYC, this conference will also offer keynotes, workshops, worship, exhibits, music and entertainment.

For more information or to register, visit NCCC at: http://www.ntlccc.org/.
What are Indiana Tax Credit (SGO) Scholarships?

Indiana Scholarship Tax Credits or SGO Scholarships are just one part of a major school reform package that includes school vouchers. Donations are received and distributed through a Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO) such as the Educational CHOICE Charitable Trust. Tax Credit (SGO) Scholarships are privately funded by individuals and corporations to provide financial support for families to enroll their children in a parochial or private school of their choice, including Catholic schools. The scholarships are designated by the donor to individual schools or groups of schools – but not directly to individual students. A donor gets a credit against his/her Indiana State Income Tax liability in addition to a federal tax deduction.

For the last two years the law required eligible students to attend a public school for one year before receiving a state-funded voucher and kindergarten did not count as a school year. The only way to enter a Catholic school directly last year was the so-called “neutral entry point.” Students could enter a Catholic school on an SGO scholarship in kindergarten or first grade for one year and then be eligible for a state voucher following the entry year and subsequent years. So, our main job last year was to fund SGO Scholarships in the entry grades to get kids started toward a voucher.

What changed for this school year during the 2013 legislative session?

♦ The Scholarship Tax Credit statewide cap went from $5 million to $7.5 million
♦ Donors can carry-over a state tax credit (for up to 9 years)
♦ The minimum State Tax Credit (SGO) Scholarship must be $500 per year
♦ Kindergarten counts as a school year
♦ The Indiana Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of the voucher program

THE MOST IMPORTANT CHANGE: Allows current Catholic school students in any grade whose families meet the income requirements to receive an SGO Tax Credit Scholarship

♦ These are kids who are already in our Catholic school seats!
♦ Students on SGO Scholarships from families who meet income guidelines can receive an Indiana school voucher for the next and subsequent years in a Catholic school!
♦ The SGO Scholarships fundraising implications are HUGE!
♦ MANY more students are potentially eligible! Significantly more dollars need to be raised!
♦ Most of these scholarship students can become eligible for vouchers for the next school year and subsequent years but must receive the scholarship the first year – this year!

To donate please contact Rosemary O’Brien in the Office of Stewardship and Development at robrien@archindy.org.

NEW OCE WEBSITE UNVEILED!

On September 16, 2013 after a few delays, the new OCE website www.oce.archindy.org opened to the public for the first time. Users will still be able to access the site from the old URL, www.archindy.org/ose. The old site was developed as part of Project EXCEED in 2002-03. It was state-of-the-art among websites at the time, and it revolutionized the way the Office of Catholic Education did business with parishes and schools, effectively “flattening the archdiocese.” After ten years of heavy daily use, the Office of Catholic Education was able to budget for a new OCE website that maintains the functionality of the old site and enhances it according to today’s advanced web standards. Galvin Technologies, Inc. designed and built the new site to allow OCE staff to manage much of the content via a Content Management System (CMS). This provides a Word-like administrative interface to the pages, allowing content to be manipulated without programming. The site will provide a more sophisticated job center as well as better news and event management. The website re development was a joint project of OCE and the Catholic Communication Office including team members Brandon Evans, archdiocese webmaster; Joe Peters; Jackie VandenBergh, and Cindy Clark of OCE.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS PREMIER EVENT

The 2013 Celebrating Catholic School Values: Scholarship and Career Achievement Awards event is Tuesday, October 8, 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the Crown Plaza Union Station, Indianapolis. This is the premiere event each year to highlight Catholic Schools and their products. Two persons will be honored for Career Achievements: Dr. David Wolf, south side dentist and volunteer and Julie Bowers, former principal of St. Patrick School, Terre Haute. Sarah and John Lechleiter will be the Community Service honorees. John is President, CEO and chairman of the board of Eli Lilly and Company.

John Gause of Apex Benefits is the event chairperson and Michael McGinley is the development chair. Fundraising is concentrated this year on SGO Tax Credit Scholarships especially for students already in Catholic schools (see article on scholarships). Four advance breakfasts or lunches were recently held to get the word out. Our chairpersons together with our schools hope to celebrate a $2 million goal this year.

Most tickets to the event will be given to both donors and schools in recognition of donations. The deadline was September 23 for gifts to be recognized with event tickets and other benefits.

To donate or get more information, please contact Rosemary O’Brien, Office of Stewardship and Development robrien@archindy.org, 236-1568 or (800)283-9836, ext. 1568.
March For Life Pilgrimage

Youth Ministry is once again getting ready for the annual March for Life Pilgrimage to Washington D.C. This year, the group will depart by bus on Tuesday morning, January 21 and return on Thursday morning, January 23. On Tuesday evening, the night before the March for Life, the group will participate in the Life is VERY Good Evening of Prayer sponsored by the Catholic Diocese of Arlington and featuring Matt Maher Band, Mary Bielski, and Fr. Agustino Torres, CFR.

Registration for the pilgrimage will be available early-October at: http://oce.archindy.org/youth-ministry/youth-events.aspx

OCE and Youth Ministry welcome Beth Curtin!

Beth Curtin is the newest addition to the Youth Ministry Team in the Office of Catholic Education. In August, Beth began her role as Youth Ministry Assistant where she assists the Director of Youth Ministry with the daily operations and administration of the office in ministry programming and services. Beth is a member of St. Matthew Parish. Previously, she has served as the middle school religion teacher and youth minister at St. Lawrence Parish and in the Bishop Chatard High School Campus Ministry Office. Beth and her husband, Mark, have four children who are all graduates of Bishop Chatard High School.

“I’m Caught ~ Reflections and Lessons from a SPRED Catechist

As I waited for the Special Religious Development (SPRED) Retreat to begin on August 10, 2013 I scanned the room where all the catechists, including myself, waited for our adult SPRED friends with special needs who come to this annual retreat from parishes across the archdiocese. I saw the decorative posters and fishing nets to emphasize our theme, Casting Your Nets for Christ. We were going to be “fishermen.” As a new catechist for SPRED this year, I wondered, “Were we casting our nets and ‘fishing’ in the hopes of reeling them in to their faith in Christ, or would they be reeling us in to a new understanding of Christ?”

Actions Sometimes Speak Louder Than Words

One lesson I learned during the retreat was the unconditional acceptance and Christ-like love emanating from all the SPRED friends and catechists. It was in the bonds the SPRED friends had with each other and their smiles.

Artist Katie Sahm led SPRED friends through a painting exercise with enthusiastic participants. As Katie swirled her paint brush, she explained each step to painting a glowing sunset shimmering on water. Each friend’s painting was as distinctive as their personalities. Mike, with an artist’s flair, signed his painting with a smiley face.

Megaphones for God

I listened intently to the SPRED friends. I heard Christ speaking and saw Christ smiling through each one. They were megaphones for God. Their connection with life, courage, determination, and faith shined through, transforming any barriers they were faced with into stepping stones to a greater faith in God. After each conversation and interaction with the friends, I walked away inspired.

In our final gathering before the friends prepared to go home, Linda told us all, “Don’t ever give up.” Linda’s words ring in my ears. What grace surrounds her to give her the courage to say that? It must be Jesus.

All the friends had faith-filled, awe-inspiring messages to share. As the retreat ended, I waved goodbye to my new friends, hugged a few, and said, “I’ll see you next year!” I want to get caught again in their nets, because when I’m there I’m closer to how God wants me to see the world and each person in it.

“And he said: ‘Amen I say to you, unless you change and become like little children, you shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven” Matthew18:3) ~ Terry Nicodemus, SPRED Catechist
Currently I minister in a predominantly Hispanic-populated parish. I do not speak Spanish. I am a white, Anglo American; cradle catholic, middle class, born and raised in Indiana. How can I possibly understand anything about other cultures? Why do I need to understand another culture? They should live our ways and follow our rules. Instead of forcing “them” to learn English, businesses encourage speaking Spanish. And now “they” are taking over. This is MY country. 

Sad to say, this was me about ten years ago when I began ministry. I did not seek to be in ministry. The Lord sought me. Now I know why. I am being TRANSFORMED!

“We Are All 1” is an inter-cultural approach to Youth Ministry. It was sponsored by the Archdiocese of Indianapolis Office of Multicultural Ministry and the Office of Youth Ministry August 3 – 4, 2013. Dr. Art Canales from Marian University spoke on “Principles of Catholic Youth Ministry.” Br. Moises Gutierrez spoke on cultural differences. When I started in ministry and attended multi-cultural seminars and workshops it was in hopes of better understanding how to put a plan in place for helping others transition into American culture. Now when I attend a multi-cultural seminar or workshop it is in hopes of seeking a better understanding so we become one culture. This doesn’t mean we lose our own individualities. It means we respect, accept and welcome others into our own. 

I am challenged by the presenters’ perspective on how to minister to people of different cultures. Cultural differences can also be used as an excuse for acceptance which segregates communities, but the better we understand different cultures the more we can become accepting. For example, time can be an issue: Spanish masses rarely start on time. I have found this extremely frustrating, but now I understand that Hispanics tend to be “in-the-moment” focused. It is what is happening now that is important, not what is to come. Once I learned and accepted this, I have been able to adjust and be less frustrated.

I struggle with my transformation. Yet, I must first understand cultural differences in order to help others in their transformation. It is all about perspective: I am who I am. I may not be able change who I am. What I can change is the acceptance of who you are.

CONNNIE ZITTNAN TAKES NEW POSITION

Mrs. Connie Zittnan served as Director of the Mother Theodore Catholic Academies (MTCA) consortium since its inception in 2005. She recently submitted her resignation and has accepted a position with Team CFA, an organization that runs charter schools around the country including The Challenge Foundation Academy in Indianapolis. 

Connie was responsible for overseeing four center city Indianapolis Catholic schools: Central Catholic; Holy Angels; Holy Cross; and St. Philip Neri. She also had responsibilities with the Board of ADI Schools, Inc., two charter schools in former Catholic school buildings. Prior to becoming Director of MTCA, Connie held positions in Catholic schools in Indianapolis, including teacher and assistant principal at St. Lawrence and principal of St. Andrew and St. Rita Catholic School from 1995-2005.

We congratulate Connie, thank her for her years of service and leadership, and wish her well in her new position.

The Case for Technology – Perfect Storm

According to some experts the “perfect storm” exists right now for the implementation of new educational technology in our schools:

- Relatively cheap tablet computing devices affordable to most parents for the first time;
- Educational standards and teaching methods that call for digital resources;
- Available and expansive digital teaching and learning resources widely available online.

We have never had an opportunity like this before. One-to-one technology for every student has always been out of reach.

Therefore, within the next three years the Office of Catholic Education wants to ensure that:

- Every person within each Catholic school will be able to get online simultaneously;
- Every person within each school will have a digital device;
- Teachers will have adequate digital instructional resources and professional development training on how to use these digital tools effectively with students.

In order to provide for this one-to-one instructional computing environment, electronic infrastructure in the schools will need to be improved and this will be one of the biggest challenges.

Therefore, we propose to:

- Raise funds through corporate and/or foundation sources for:
  - Matching grants to help incentive local investment for major one-time costs (i.e., local and central infrastructure and robust internet connections to each school building);
  - Funds to help schools with costs of applied professional development for teachers;
  - Some “scholarship-type” assistance to help needy families afford digital devices.
- Encourage wide use of the Federal E-Rate by schools as internet access costs rise and possibly grouping schools according to Federal Free/Reduced Lunch eligibility for maximum E-Rate benefits.
- Encourage schools to use all available public resources for professional development.
- Explore possible sharing of resources such as centralized (cloud) servers, internet access, e-mail, storage, etc. in the high E-rate schools to share their benefits with other schools.
- Provide the best possible comprehensive applied professional development for teachers (already started).
- Assist with loan/leasing options, bulk purchasing and/or al development for teachers (already started).
- Provide the best possible comprehensive applied professional development for teachers (already started).
- Assist with loan/leasing options, bulk purchasing and/or shared licensing agreements that keep functionality high and costs low to both schools and parents.
- Assist with virus and web filtering on both central and local servers.
- Assist with “Acceptable Use” policies and programs.
- Help ensure sustainability.

Please watch for upcoming news about this initiative!

For information or to donate, please contact Mary McCoy at mmccoy@archindy.org.
CATHOLIC SCHOOL SECRETARY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

The OCE Operations Team hosted fifty-five Catholic school secretaries on September 16 for the first professional development day designed to acknowledge the importance of their work in school operations. Sessions addressed legal issues, workplace wellness, and their Christ-centered work.

Prior to the workshop, each attendee participated in an online Strengthfinders assessment. Mary Schaffner, Associate Director of Spirituality Ministries at Fatima, facilitated an afternoon session based on their individual results. One attendee shared this thought, “It was the perfect balance of spiritual, practical and relaxation.”

ADMINISTRATORS CONFERENCE DRAWS RECORD NUMBER OF ATTENDEES

The Office of Catholic Education kicks off each program year with a summer two-day conference for Youth Ministers, Principals, Parish Administrators of Religious Education, Pastoral Associates and Priests. The conference generates enthusiasm and provides time to update, deepen our Catholic faith and build fellowship within and among our ministries. In keeping with the Year of Faith, the theme of this year’s gathering held on July 22 and 23 at the French Lick Spring’s Hotel was “This is Our Faith, We are Proud to Profess It.” Archbishop Tobin presided at the opening liturgy and gave the keynote address on the topic of the New Evangelization. This year’s event drew the largest attendance in recent years with 220 administrators, and 10 priests. Eighteen vendors supported the conference through sponsorships and exhibits.

CATECHISTS GET TIPS FOR TEACHING THE FAITH

In collaboration with the Office of Multicultural Ministry, OCE hosted two in-service days for catechists, teachers and youth ministry volunteers. The first workshop occurred in the northern part of the diocese (Greenwood) on Saturday, August 17, with a southern option on Saturday, August 24, in Clarksville. “Teaching the Gospel by Word and Deed” was a bilingual experience to accommodate both English- and Spanish-speakers. Over 75 participants capitalized on this opportunity to sharpen their catechetical skills in preparation for the 2013-2014 program year.

Participants were urged to remember the importance of witnessing as well as teaching so that learners will see the connection between knowledge of the Faith and the difference it should make in everyday life. “When teachers give examples of the power and beauty of Catholic doctrine from their own lives and the lives of others, including the saints, learners are more likely to listen and the teaching will bear fruit by God’s grace,” says Ken Ogorek, Director of Catechesis.

Ashley Barnett and Ken Ogorek

YEAR OF FAITH PROJECT WRAPPING UP ... NEXT STEPS TO HELP PARISHES EVANGELIZE!

On September 14th Director of Catechesis Ken Ogorek hosted a gathering of representatives from all eleven diocesan deaneries to review a draft of the pastoral resource “10 Things We Want You to Know About the Catholic Faith.” This draft is a result of our Year of Faith effort whereby the faithful of southern and central Indiana were invited to share what they wish more of their friends, neighbors and relatives knew about our Catholic faith.

The Year of Faith was declared by Pope Benedict as running from October 11, 2012 to November 24, 2013 with Pope Francis following through on this vision for reinvigorating an appreciation for the great gift and blessing of faith. The Office of Catholic Education has been a lead agent in this effort throughout the Archdiocese.

When “10 Things We Want You to Know About the Catholic Faith” is finalized it will be available for parishes to use in local efforts to evangelize thereby helping to make disciples of Jesus and enthusiastic members of His holy, Catholic Church. Stay tuned to The Good Word, The Criterion and www.archindy.org for more information on this resource and additional fruits resulting, by God’s grace, from our Year of Faith.

ARCHDIOCESAN REPORTING SYSTEM

Beginning last school year, the Archdiocesan Reporting System Team compiled data and studied research that led to the development of a new reporting system, which includes the new standards-based report card. The reporting tool is designed to better reflect instruction and assessment (the teaching and learning) that takes place. The intent is to provide parents and students with greater detail about student performance and growth in specific areas. While teachers still teach above and beyond the recommended standards, the categorical information found on the report card helps identify key areas of expectation at each grade level.

To better understand the report card components and the grade level expectations, videos were created by our reporting system team. If you wish to view the videos, contact your local Catholic school for the links.

Congratulations

Parish Administrators Honored For Service

Deanna Lustig, Youth Minister at St. Matthew Parish, Indianapolis, was recently honored with the Servant Leader of the Year award. The award is presented annually to a person in youth ministry who reflects a deep faith in God, solid Catholic principles, and a deep commitment to young people and the vision of total youth ministry. Moreover, this person is identified as a positive role model for young people and their commitment to personal and professional growth.

This year’s recipient of the Excellence in Catechesis Award is Rosalie Hawthorne, Pastoral Associate and Parish Administrator of Religious Education, Nativity of Our Lord Parish, Indianapolis. The award honors a catechetical leader who exemplifies fidelity and effectiveness in overseeing faith formation in a parish setting. Rosalie’s years of dedicated and fruitful service to God’s people at Nativity and beyond make her a most fitting honoree.
Reflections from the Executive Director

We hope you enjoy this issue of The Good Word. The exciting programs and initiatives it features are many, and we hope they prove fertile instruments in calling all those we serve through them into greater intimacy with Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Reflecting on this hope brought to my mind a profound experience I would like to share. It occurred at a branding party when I was a young teacher serving the Lakota people on Standing Rock Indian Reservation in South Dakota. These parties consisted of ranchers putting up portable fences on their grazing land, then roping and dragging calves into them for branding, dehorning, etc. They were always careful to shut the gate quickly behind them to keep out the upset mothers who had to resign themselves to only sticking their heads in between the aluminum bars and bellowing long and hard to their calves. The noise was almost deafening, and yet in the midst of this chaos something remarkable would happen. Once the branding process was completed, each calf would be released through the gate and effortlessly steer through the hundred or so roaring cows packing the perimeter to arrive safely at its mother’s side! Never in my life have I been so immediately in the presence of a parable, with Our Lord’s words about his sheep knowing his voice ringing in my mind. (John 10:27)

Thirty years have not dulled this vivid reminder to me that our baptismal “branding” assures us of hearing Our Lord’s voice through the tumult of our daily lives – if we only listen. If we don’t, our lives and our ministries run the risk of becoming absurd, a word containing the Latin surdus, meaning “deaf”.

Developing the habit of listening in this manner takes patience and courage, but if we persevere we will be better equipped to navigate through the noise of our many works to stand in the presence of the Good Shepherd as we serve all those brought into our care.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Harry Plummer
Executive Director

Office of Catholic Education
Archdiocese of Indianapolis
1400 North Meridian Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367