NEW PROGRAM HELPS WITH HIGH SCHOOL RELIGION

High school principals have struggled for years to find religion teachers who are both knowledgeable in Catholic doctrine and well-versed in teaching methodology including classroom management. Thankfully, many such catechists are active in our eleven high schools as a grace of the Holy Spirit.

To help raise up a new generation of effective high school catechists, and for many additional good reasons, three of our schools are collaborating with the Institute for Church Life (at the University of Notre Dame) on an effort called Echo Teaching Theology. The Echo program has been present in our archdiocese for ten years and has mostly benefitted parish catechetical programs by providing apprentices who help administer these programs—with a mentor who is the parish administrator of religious education—while earning a master’s degree in theology at the university.

Echo Teaching Theology provides apprentices who serve as full-time high school religion teachers while earning a theology master’s degree and who are being formed through the Echo program in community life, knowledge of adolescent development and suitable teaching methodologies for high school students. A mentor teacher at the host school meets regularly with each apprentice to ensure effective teaching and healthy growth as a Catholic educator.

Scecina Memorial, Roncalli and Providence Cristo Rey high schools are hosting the Echo apprentices, Aaron Calton, Caroline Reuter, and Katie Yohe this year and next, as Echo is a two-year program. We thank these schools for their generosity and hospitality, and we welcome them to the archdiocese! Learn more about the Echo program at www.http://echo.nd.edu/.

INTRODUCING: VOCATION LESSONS

By: Father Eric Augenstein, Director of Vocations

The Archdiocesan Vocations Office often receives requests for resources, lesson plans, or information that teachers and catechists can use to promote vocations in our parishes and schools. While there have been some good resources published over the years, there has never been a single, comprehensive vocations promotion program for Catholic parishes and schools—until now. We are excited to introduce you to Vocation Lessons, a K-12 catechetical resource for Catholic schools, parish religious education programs, and youth ministry.

Developed by Vianney Vocations, this new program presents marriage, priesthood, religious life and discernment in an engaging and prayerful way in order to introduce young people to a process of learning God’s plan for their lives. The lessons are online and can also be printed off for use by students and teachers. Each lesson is tailored to a grade level and a particular setting—school, religious education, or youth group—and incorporates prayer, video, art, story, discussion questions, and a family component.

The good news is that this new curriculum is being made available to all parishes and schools in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis free of charge. We especially encourage use during National Vocations Awareness Week, observed this year from November 2-9. Explore the program yourself by visiting www.VocationLessons.com and using Teacher AccessCode Brute1834 and Student Access Code PeterandPaul12. For more information, contact the Vocations Office at 317-236-1490. By using this one program throughout the Archdiocese, we will all be on the same page in promoting and praying for vocations to priesthood, religious life, and marriage.
CELEBRATING OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

The 19th Annual Celebrating Catholic School Values: Scholarships and Career Achievement Awards will be held at the Crown Plaza Grand Hall of Union Station, Indianapolis on Wednesday, November 5, 2014 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. This is the premier event to celebrate Catholic Schools and their products. Fr. Jim Wilmoth, MS, VF, a priest for nearly fifty years in the archdiocese and true advocate for our Catholic schools, and Bob Desaultels, employed at Visit Indy, formerly the Convention and Visitors Association, for the last twenty-nine years, and longtime member of St. Pius X Parish will receive Career Achievement Awards. Dan and Beth Elsener will receive the Community Service Award. Dan is President of Marian University and has been married to Beth for 38 years. They have been united in their efforts to advance Catholic education.

ROBERT DESAUTELS  FR. JAMES WILMOOTH  DAN AND BETH ELSENER

This year’s keynote speaker will be Cardinal Theodore Edgar McCarrick. Cardinal McCarrick was elevated to the cardinalate by Pope John Paul II in 2001 and served as Archbishop of Washington from 2001 to 2006. As Archbishop of Washington, Cardinal McCarrick served as chancellor of The Catholic University of America and president of the Board of Trustees of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. He placed an emphasis on education, vocations and meeting the needs of new immigrants, particularly in the Latino community.

Mike McInley of Northwestern Mutual is the event chairperson and Bob McKinney of Johnson-Melloh, Inc. is the development chair. Both Mike and Bob have been instrumental in spreading the awareness of Tax Credit Scholarships through seven advance breakfasts and lunches held across the archdiocese. Over 1,500 participants were present at these events along with representation from 52 of our Catholic schools. This year’s goal of $5 million will go towards helping provide Catholic education to even more children.

Most tickets to the event will be given to both donors and schools in recognition of donations. Individual tickets may be purchased through the Office of Stewardship and Development or by contacting Rosemary O’Brien at 236-1568 or (800) 283-9836, ext. 1568, robrien@archindy.org.

Welcome Rose Ruiz
The Office of Catholic Education is excited to welcome Rose Ruiz to our staff as the new Faith Formation Administrative Assistant! Rose began her role providing support for the Faith Formation Team and assisting in the daily operations of the OCE Operations Staff earlier this month. Previously she served in the Extended Day Program at St. Malachy in Brownsburg, and for eleven years as the receptionist for St. Thomas More Catholic Community in Las Vegas, Nevada. Rose and her husband, Manuel, are members of St. Malachy Parish, and they have three children and two grandchildren. Rose can be reached at 236-1550 or rruiz@archindy.org.

GOOD THINGS HAPPENING WITH OUR YOUNG ADULTS!

The Office of Young Adult and College Campus Ministry (YACCM) just finished up a whirlwind summer of ministry that was highlighted by its two biggest outreaches, Theology on Tap and IndyCatholic Intramurals. Each summer we travel to different establishments around the city to bring Jesus and the Church to the people with our long-running outreach called Theology on Tap. This summer was highlighted by talks and performances from Mike Mangione, PJ Anderson, Br. Moises and Bonnie Engstrom, an Illinois native whose son’s miracle was the cause for Fulton Sheen’s beatification. We also wrapped up our second season and sport for our brand new outreach, IndyCatholic Intramurals, in July. Our Sunday afternoon kickball league drew almost 200 young adults from 36 different parishes! It was a great success that brought many new souls together for the first time. We are excited about our bowling league which starts the last week of October. And finally, we capped off the summer the only way we know how with the Bishop’s Bash. Archbishop Tobin celebrated Mass for 400+ young adults and we celebrated the goodness of God and our community the rest of the evening with dinner and dancing. It was a blessed summer indeed. We look forward to continuing our mission to serve, seek and find the young church of Central and Southern Indiana this fall. All events and opportunities are listed on www.indycatholic.org.
CATHY ANDREWS HONORED FOR EXCELLENCE IN CATECHESIS

This year’s annual Excellence in Catechesis awardee is Cathy Andrews, parish administrator of religious education at Saint Vincent de Paul parish in Bedford, Bloomington deanery. Andrews received the honor at our recent OCE Administrators Conference in French Lick—the conference theme being Our Future, Our Families.

Cathy’s service to the families of Lawrence County has been exemplary throughout her years of ministry in Bedford and beyond. Among her efforts is a monthly postcard mailing to parishioners addressing a different question and/or misunderstanding regarding the Faith. Father Rick Eldred, Cathy’s pastor, supervisor and nominator, points out that she “has led the effort in seeking orthodox and enthusiastically Catholic materials for our children’s religious education program.”

The Excellence in Catechesis honor has been awarded annually since 1996 by the Office of Catholic Education. PAREs are usually nominated by their pastor and supervisor who describes how the nominee helps parishioners grow as disciples of Jesus, making religion a way of life and a virtue that benefits communities—all by providing developmentally appropriate, objectively comprehensive catechesis. We congratulate Cathy and her family (who shares her with ministry), wishing her many more years of fruitful service to God’s people.

NEW SAINT MALACHY PARISH SCHOOL BLESSED

Archbishop Tobin celebrated a beautiful Mass for the blessing of the new St. Malachy Parish School on September 3, 2014.

The church was filled with students, staff, parishioners and friends of the St. Malachy community who were all instrumental in seeing the dream of a new school come to fruition. After the Mass, Archbishop Tobin ventured over to school to visit students and bless each classroom. It was certainly a day of true celebration and many years of planning.

The school is located out in the “country” in the middle of a cornfield on the same campus as the Church that was built six years ago. The new school is safe, clean, bright and a beautiful place for the education of children. It provides a larger gym, a cafeteria and media center that can be utilized by different ministries after school hours. You won’t find blackboards in the new school; however, you will see Smart Boards in every room. Principal Angela Bostrom said the new school is beautiful and she feels blessed to come to work each and every day.

Fr. Joe Feltz, Pastor of St. Malachy Church, expresses his appreciation and thanks to the parishioners of St. Malachy who stepped forward and said yes to “Fulfilling the Promise.” “Their example of Christian stewardship made this happen. We pray for God’s continued blessing on Saint Malachy Catholic Church and Parish School.”

ASSESSMENT AND STANDARDS WORKING TOGETHER: HOW WE TEACH RELIGION

Religion is our centerpiece subject. While catechists and additional volunteers can and should refer to secular subject areas in order to show the connectedness of all truth; in religious education, youth ministry, and young adult and college campus ministry the teaching of religion is a focal point of our efforts. In Catholic schools, excellence in the teaching of religion is a consistent priority year in and year out.

This past summer a group of Catholic educators who serve and minister in a variety of OCE-related settings collaborated to produce an Alignment of Religion Standards with ACRE Domains. ACRE (Assessment of Children/Youth Religious Education), is the standardized assessment used in grades 5, 8 and 11 for the subject of religion in each of our schools and parish catechetical programs. ACRE reports results in a variety of ways, a key one being how strong knowledge of the Faith is in each of catechesis’ six tasks according to the National Directory of Catechesis. These six domains of ACRE reporting are:

1. Knowledge of the Faith 4. Prayer
2. Liturgical Life 5. Communal Life

The task force mentioned above, working over the summer, took each standard in our Archdiocesan religion curriculum guidelines (the document that essentially provides the lesson plan objectives for each grade level Pre-K through 12) and aligned it with the domain above that the standard best fits. Some standards fit well under more than one domain. The vast majority, though, are focused on a specific task of catechesis.

The Alignment of Religion Standards with the ACRE Domains document, then, encourages administrators to focus their efforts in enhancing specific areas of teaching the Faith as needed. For example, if a school’s ACRE report shows that knowledge of prayer among 11th-graders is below archdiocesan and national averages, catechists can explore enhanced methodologies for pursuing the prayer-related standards in our archdiocesan religion curriculum guidelines.

With standards and assessment working well together, the teaching of religion—as with secular subjects—will continue improving annually by God’s grace. We are grateful to the Catholic educators who worked over the summer to produce the alignment document.

Questions should be addressed to Ken Ogorek, Director of Catechesis, at kogorek@archindy.org.
“THE BEST CATECHETICAL CONFERENCE IN NORTH AMERICA”

This past summer our catechetical director, Ken Ogorek, took several Catholic educators to the Saint John Bosco Conference at Franciscan University of Steubenville in Steubenville, Ohio. High school religion teachers, youth ministers, RCIA team leaders and parish administrators of religious education all represented the archdiocese at this annual gathering.

“Speakers always distinguish between the teaching of our Church, on the one hand, and areas of prudential judgment, theological speculation, personal opinion etc. on the other hand,” says Ogorek. For that reason and others he considers it the best catechetical conference in North America.

Benefactors helped underwrite this professional and spiritual development opportunity. For more information on OCE’s trip to the Saint John Bosco Conference—our own annual tradition—including how you can help support this effort in particular, please see this Criterion link: http://www.archindy.org/criterion/local/2014/08-22/uca.html

“Hallelujah Luau” SPRED OVERNIGHT RETREAT

The annual overnight for adult SPRED participants was held August 2-3 at the Benedict Inn. The theme this year was “Hallelujah Luau,” a title coined by Sr. Pam Doyle. “This winter was just so rough on so many people and in so many different ways. The word that kept coming to me was ‘joy.’ We needed something to lift us up from the winter. One of the words that kept coming to me was ‘Hallelujah,’ and ‘luau’ just kind of went right with it.”

SPRED friends and catechists came eager to participate, many already sporting Hawaiian prints! The talks focused on God’s super-abundant love in providing for each of us, and Katie Sahm led a painting meditation on the hibiscus flower, reminding participants that “God is who brings us joy.” There was time for games—trivia being the big hit—walks with friends new and old, and music. The next day participants reflected on gratitude, and worked on a service project, putting together care packages for those who are in prison. The retreat ended with a joyful Mass celebrated by Fr. Todd Riebe from St. Mark the Evangelist and assisted by Deacon Adam Ahern. Nicole McConnell, a long-time catechist from St. Malachy and a member of the planning team, said it best, “We are all a family together sharing the faith. It’s so joyous, I can’t even tell you.”

YOUTH MINISTRY PLANNING EVENTS FOR THE COMING YEAR - MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

INDIANAPOLIS CATHOLIC YOUTH CONFERENCE (ICYC)

ICYC 2014 will take place November 2, 2014 at Marian University. This conference is for all high school students in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana. The keynote presenter is Ansel Augustine featuring a musical performance by the Ike Ndolo Band. Both were on the main stage at NCYC last year! For more information about this exciting event, please visit our new website at www.archindyym.com.

DISCIPLES FOR LIFE

In lieu of sponsoring an archdiocesan trip to the March for Life, Archdiocesan Youth Ministry and the Office of Pro-Life and Family Life will co-sponsor an event for youth, young adults, and families to rally on the eve of the March for Life here in Indianapolis!

We plan to join together in solidarity, praying for the sanctity of human life and to celebrate life! The event will be hosted downtown at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church on January 21, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. and will feature Steve Angrisano and our very own Bishop Christopher Coyne. Please plan to attend this inaugural event with your youth! Registration information at www.archindyym.com.

2015 HOMELAND MISSION PROJECT

JUNE 20-26, 2015

Benedict Inn

This past June 47, high school youth from across fifteen local sites with a combined 1269 man-hours of service! The highlight video can be seen at www.archindyym.com!

National Catholic Youth Conference

NCYC 2015

Once again the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) will be returning to Indianapolis at the Indiana Convention Center and Lucas Oil Stadium, November 19-21, 2015. The theme is “Here I Am Lord.” Jackie Francois will be the Emcee and will include keynote speakers Fr. Leo Patalinghug, Chris Padgett, Mark Hart, and Matt Maher. More information along with registration will be coming soon to www.archindyym.com.

WORLD YOUTH DAY - KRAKOW, POLAND - JULY 22-AUGUST 1, 2016

World Youth Day (WYD) is a worldwide encounter with the Pope which is typically celebrated every three years in a different country. The most recent WYD was celebrated in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from July 23rd to 28th, 2013 and the next World Youth Day will be held in Krakow, Poland in 2016. The Archdiocese of Indianapolis will be taking two tracks on this journey. A young adult group and a high school group (incoming juniors and seniors only). Information and registrations will be posted at www.archindyym.com.
SPRED CATECHIST EVENING OF REFLECTION

There was a feeling of a family reunion at the SPRED Catechist Evening of Reflection on September 4th as catechists and clergy from parishes which host a SPRED group gathered together.

The evening began with Evening Prayer, led by Monsignor Paul Koetter. After dinner participants were led by Erin Jeffries, Coordinator of Ministry to Persons with Special Needs, in a reflection on the theme for this year’s lessons, “Covenant,” and the meaning of the story of salvation in our own lives.

After the presentation participants were given time for personal prayer and large group reflection.

YOUTH MINISTERS HONORED

The Servant Leader of the Year Award was presented at the annual OCE Administrators Conference in July. The award is presented to a person in Youth Ministry who reflects a deep faith in God, solid Catholic principles, and a deep commitment to young people in the vision of total Youth Ministry. This year we had two recipients of the Servant Leader of the Year Award. Bernie Price, the volunteer Youth Minister at Good Shepherd who also works in the archdiocesan Catholic Youth Organization office and Charlene Witka, Director of Campus Ministry at Cathedral High School who is the first high school Campus Minister to receive this award.

In nominating Bernie, her pastor Fr. Gerry Kirkoff stated, “I believe Bernie is an outstanding individual who has been a true inspiration not only to the youth of Good Shepherd but to the many individuals that have been a part of her life through her service at Good Shepherd and the Catholic Youth Organization. Bernie has led a faithful life and she is dedicated to her faith in the service of God.” In nominating Charlene, a parent stated, “Charlene is a person that allows the Holy Spirit to work through her in an incredibly powerful way on many levels and under many circumstances. Cathedral High School is blessed to have her. In a more perfect world, every teenager would have someone like Charlene in their lives, a true example of an adult that loves all of the students that she meets.” Congratulations to our two Servant Leaders of the Year for 2013-2014!

Also honored at the annual OCE Administrators Conference was Janet Roth, the Coordinator of Youth Ministry at Sacred Heart of Jesus, St. Benedict, and St. Ann's parishes in Terre Haute, IN for her 30 years of service in ministry and to congratulate her upon her retirement. When asked about her journey in ministry, Janet had this to say, “My life has been blessed in abundance by the wonderful teens, volunteers, parents, peers, staff, and family that have supported me, guided me, and loved me along the way. I thank God every day for enriching my life with the joy that comes from serving Him and others.” Congratulations to Janet on her many years of service and wishes for good health and happiness upon retirement!

ST. PATRICK: A SUCCESS STORY!!

By Amy McClain, Principal

St. Patrick School of the Terre Haute Deanery loves it when a plan comes together.

On August 13, 2014, St. Patrick School opened the year with 383 students. Though the trajectory for enrollment has steadily increased since 2010, this school year has been the most interesting. Looking back, however, one should not be surprised at all.

In 2011-12, the School Commission's main focus was on marketing. Press releases for special events were sent to local media outlets. Positive strides were made when our students began writing the School Zone articles for the Tribune Star, Terre Haute's daily paper. Trying to capitalize on that success, Annie Mascari, the middle school language arts teacher was asked to guide students through writing and producing a commercial.

Where did she start? Students evaluated YouTube videos that were posted by other Catholic schools across the nation. "They decided that they did not want the principal to talk the whole time," chuckled Annie. And luckily, the principal didn't want to talk either! Instead, they chose to recite St. Patrick's Breastplate and match activities or events that illustrated the verse. When Target Marketing offered a generous donation and sent Whitney Volkl to film and produce the commercial, the students had a storyboard and a cast. St. Patrick School's commercial began running during Catholic Schools' Week of 2012. And then the phone began to ring . . .

Since then, SPS continues to register students in a steady fashion. Enrollment has been boosted by School Choice Scholarship information nights and the testimony of our current families. In addition, graduates go on to attend three area public high schools and John Paul II Catholic High where they represent SPS very well.

In 2013-14, the marketing base expanded to include affordable education to any Catholic family in the Terre Haute deanery. With the support of all of the deanery parishes, Catholic tuition became the same for all students per the Terre Haute Deanery Plan. The change in tuition structure appealed to families with students of all ages, most recognizable in the preschool and kindergarten classrooms. At that point, SPS needed more space.

The Growth and Expansion Committee from the school commission followed Fr. Rick Ginther’s guidance and wrote an ArchIndy grant for two mobile classrooms which will be ready for the Art Center this month. Why are they growing? Because the pastor, teachers, parents, and students - are spreading the good word!
OCE HOLDS THE DOOR OPEN FOR YOU

Archbishop Tobin recently identified six areas of ministry due for enhancements locally in the years ahead. These six areas where God is opening doors throughout the archdiocese are: 1) Campus and young adult ministry; 2) Ministry to married couples and families; 3) Ministry to migrants; 4) Prison ministry; 5) Debt relief; and 6) Global Catholicism.

At first glance these might not appear to be OCE’s usual stomping grounds. When you read The Good Word, though, and see the good work of our Office of Catholic Education throughout the 2014-15 program year, you’ll notice that our efforts are very much related to several of these areas—with some areas offering great potential for future collaboration among various archdiocesan offices.

For example, now that Young Adult and College Campus Ministry is back under the OCE umbrella, the resources of our office will continue enhancing this vibrant area of outreach. Similarly, when we recently honored Catholic education leaders at our annual Administrators Conference, these awards (described herein) were bestowed in the context of our conference theme: Our Future, Our Families. The entire conference unfolded with an eye toward helping our leaders in the field enhance their efforts to serve families in a culture containing various challenges to family life.

God is indeed opening doors and, as Archbishop Tobin puts it, beckoning the archdiocese to respond. Because Catholic education — parish catechetical programs, youth ministry, young adult and college campus ministry, and Catholic schools—is integral to the mission of our Church, the Office of Catholic Education will continue playing a key role in helping to open doors of ministry and keeping them open for God’s holy people. Enjoy this issue of The Good Word, and have a great 2014-15 program year!

Ken Ogorek
Director of Catechesis

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