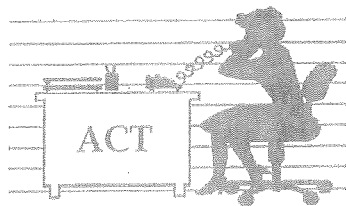


THE

The Newspaper of Local 1776
The Association of Catholic Teachers

SPIRIT '76 OF

1700 SANSOM STREET - SUITE 903 - PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103 - 215-568-4175 - VOLUME XXXIII- NO. 5
Fax 215-568-8270 - email (nacst.nacst@verizon.net) - web site (www.act1776.com) - Feb.-Mar. 2013



From The President's Desk

PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

I am happy to report that the Association and the Faith in the Future Foundation have finally met. On February 13th, Irene and I sat down with Casey Carter, Ed Hanway and Brian O'Neill. It was a very good first meeting and we have been assured that our meetings will be ongoing. In my thank-you email, I told Casey Carter how much we appreciated his openness as he shared his goals for the Foundation and for our schools. "The Association wants very much to work with you and the Foundation to help make our schools thrive."

Casey responded, "I too am very encouraged by the tone and openness of our conversation. While your Association will continue to bargain with the Archdiocese around those issues that are most important to you, all of us at the Foundation are excited about sharing our message of growth, leadership, and innovation with your teachers. I will be in touch with you across the weeks ahead to get your advice on how best to get in front of them with that message."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

FROM THE PRESIDENT . . .

Speaking of bargaining, 45 years ago, February 28, 1968, the Association of Catholic Teachers won a consent election and became the sole and exclusive bargaining representative for lay teachers in the, then, 28 Archdiocesan high schools.

A great many of you cannot even remember a time when there wasn't a union or a negotiated contract. What you are all well aware of is the current contract predicament, a contract in force but still unsigned.

The major issue surrounding the blank signature lines is the Grievance Procedure. Simply stated, the School System wants to be able to determine which grievances can be grieved and which ones cannot.

It is unfortunate that over the past six months, there has been an ever-growing pile of grievances, filed, for the most part, against the System and the Superintendent. Using the System's scenario, the Superintendent terminates a teacher. The teacher files a grievance citing unjust termination. The Superintendent then gets to determine whether or not that teacher can grieve the termination. I don't think so!!!

This time, next year, the Association and the System will be opening negotiations for a new Labor-Management Agreement. Based on all that the Foundation wants to do to grow the schools, all the hard work the 17 schools are doing raising money as well as recruiting and retaining students, coupled with the educational excellence of our schools and our teachers, an all-summer negotiations similar to our last one (remember 2011?), seems a really terrible way to run a school system.

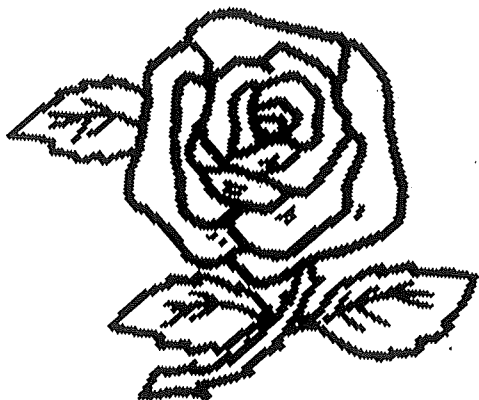
In contrast, the use of the Early Bird format, so successful in our 2008 contract talks, would seem to be a totally win-win situation. ACT has already proposed the use of the Early Bird to the Archdiocese.

As always, the Association will keep you updated on all of the above.

Happy Easter to you and your families. See you at the General Membership Meeting on April 9th.



50 Years
of
Service



A
Golden
Celebration

THE ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC TEACHERS

congratulates its members who are celebrating their
50th year of service to the Secondary School System
of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Edward Griffith

Rita C. Schwartz

William Hoy

25 Years of Service
A Silver Celebration

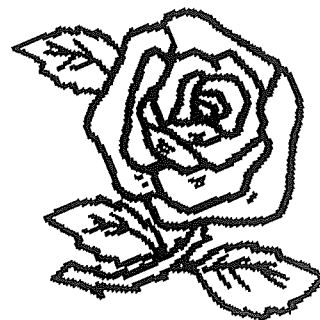
THE ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC TEACHERS

congratulates its members who are celebrating their
25th year of service to the Secondary School System
of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Sharon Cornwall

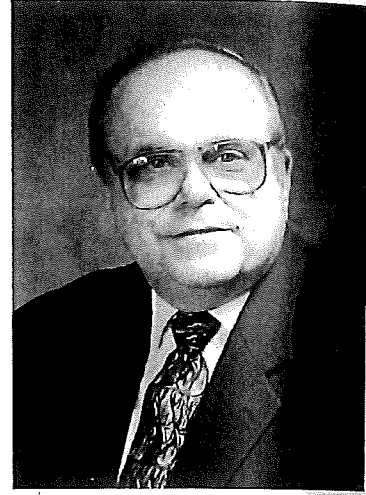
Mary Lou Metzger

Joseph Murray



Charlie Blaszczyk—Requiescat in Pace!

Charlie Blaszczyk taught science at Bishop McDevitt High School for 49 years. He further served the school as an administrator and as a moderator of sundry activities. I had the privilege of traveling the McDevitt road with him for 39 of his 49 years. Charlie was already an established pro at McDevitt when I came aboard in the halcyon times of 1972. Charlie was always a professional colleague of mine, but it was really over the final 20 years that a kind of friendship emerged.



One of the iconic characteristics of Charlie's teaching style was his "trash can" conferences with his students. He would call the kids out one by one into the hallway. He would set up a trash can with his academic material on top, him on one side, and the student on the other. What would happen next was pure Charlie: an unvarnished assessment of the student's progress in his class—emphasis on the word "unvarnished." Symbolically, the student had an interesting choice: improve or face the horrors of the trash can. I have taught side by side with many remarkable professionals in my own career at McDevitt; I have never seen anyone else on staff use the trash can in such an elegant manner as Charlie did.

Charlie could certainly have an "edge" in class. The edge usually came from exhorting his students to pursue excellence—something he wanted out of every student who sat in front of him. He would settle for nothing less and would have no problem in telling you if he thought that you were falling short.

In later years, life dealt Charlie a very difficult hand. After 25 years of marriage, he suddenly lost his beloved Rosemary, whom he had met at McDevitt. Life would never be the same for him, and those of us who were around Charlie could see the change in him.

Dealing with the loss of his wife and also coping with his own deteriorating health, I never heard Charlie curse the darkness. Very much like the Biblical Job, he seemed to shoulder an ever-heavier burden and soldier on. As a friend, it became difficult for me to watch his health deteriorate. As a colleague, it was brutally difficult to watch a man who had been so brilliant in science for so long and a man who had given so much to his school for so long begin to slip-slide away.

After he retired from McDevitt, I would get the occasional phone call from him. After the customary exchange of pleasantries, I always got the same question: "How's McDevitt?" In his final days, on the couple of times I visited him while he was in hospice, I always got "How's McDevitt?" He was most appreciative of anyone at McDevitt who extended to him the most minimal of courtesies.

Charlie Blaszczyk never left Bishop McDevitt High School. He taught science to thousands of high school kids and strived to instill in each one of them a passion for what was his own life's work. The over seven thousand Facebook hits on the McDevitt web page bear testimony to the impact that Charlie had on so many over the years. Good luck in trying to find a negative comment among those seven thousand messages. As long as McDevitt stands, Charlie will be among us.

Joe Brandley
Bishop McDevitt High School

ELECTION AREA VICE PRESIDENTS

By ACT Constitution, the 4 Area Vice Presidents are to be elected in May of odd numbered years by the active membership of their area.

ELIGIBLE MEMBERS WHO WISH TO RUN FOR OFFICE SHALL FILE A PETITION WITH THE NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE BY **April 10th** AND IT SHALL BEAR THE SIGNATURES OF **TWENTY-FIVE (25) REGULAR MEMBERS AND THEIR SCHOOL DESIGNATIONS.**

THESE PETITIONS SHALL STATE:

“I (NAME OF CANDIDATE) WISH TO RUN FOR THE OFFICE OF
(NAME OF AREA) AREA VICE PRESIDENT, AND WILL SERVE
IN THAT OFFICE IF ELECTED.”

The areas and schools each represents are as follows:

NORTHEAST: Conwell-Egan, Holy Cross, Father Judge, Saint Hubert and Archbishop Ryan

NORTHWEST: Lansdale Catholic, Bishop McDevitt, Archbishop Wood, and Pope John Paul II

CENTRAL: John W. Hallahan, Little Flower, Saints John Neumann and Maria Goretti, Roman Catholic and West Catholic

SOUTHWEST: Monsignor Bonner-Archbishop Prendergast, Archbishop Carroll, Cardinal O'Hara and Bishop Shanahan

IN THE EVENT THAT NO PETITIONS ARE RECEIVED FOR NOMINATIONS TO A PARTICULAR OFFICE BY APRIL 10, ONLY IN THIS EVENT SHALL THE NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE MAKE ANY NOMINATIONS. IN THIS EVENT THEY SHALL NOMINATE AT LEAST TWO (2) ELIGIBLE MEMBERS FOR THE SPECIFIC OFFICE(S) BY APRIL 16.

BALLOTS MUST BE SENT OUT NO LATER THAN MAY 1 AND MUST BE RETURNED NO LATER THAN MAY 15, 2013.

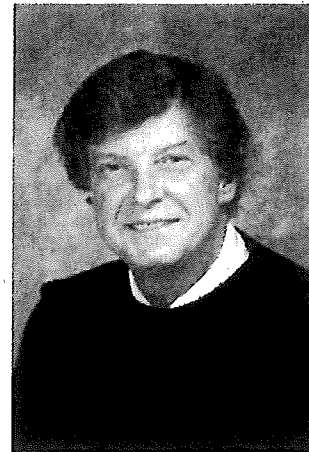
ANY MEMBER WHO WISHES TO HAVE HIS OR HER NAME PLACED IN NOMINATION MUST USE THE ABOVE PETITION AND MUST **RETURN THE PETITION WITH THE SIGNATURES OF 25 REGULAR MEMBERS BY April 10, 2013.**

ADDRESS ALL PETITIONS TO:

**NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
C/O ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC TEACHERS
1700 SANSOM STREET, SUITE 903
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103**

We Bid You Farewell

Albert Einstein once said; "Strange is our situation here on Earth. Each of us comes for a short visit, not knowing why, yet sometimes seeming to divine a purpose. From the standpoint of daily life, however, there is one thing we do know: that man is here for the sake of other men—above all for those upon whose smiles and well-being our own happiness depends."



Mr. Bid, Mr. Bid, every day the halls of CEC echoed with those two short words; the reply, Hello! For 25 years, Paul Bidlingmaier worked his craft at Bishop Egan, beginning as a Science teacher in my senior year, and the past 20 years as a co-worker in the Social Studies Department at CEC. I was privileged to teach next to him the past few years, and more honored to have taught his two wonderful twin daughters many years ago. Each day he entered with a smile, embraced his students with a cheerful attitude, and always seemed to understand the importance of his task of inspiring others to fulfill their dreams. I never saw Paul become frustrated with a student's lack of preparation, nor did he berate them for their failure to complete required tasks. He was a man who loved his job, loved his students, and loved the school that he had dedicated more than 75% of his life to.

Paul was more than an educator, he was a friend. He would call at least once a week just to chat about sports. He loved his Philly teams! And when I was struggling with health issues, he always inquired as to how I was doing. Paul was truly here for the sake of other men and women. He was not self-centered; Bid was a man that I am thankful for having passed my way. I will miss his evening calls; we will all miss his cheery hello!

So Bid, as the saying goes, until we meet again may God hold you in the palm of his hand. Thanks for the many smiles and joy that you shared while fulfilling your mission in the name of others.

Rich Papirio
Conwell-Egan Catholic

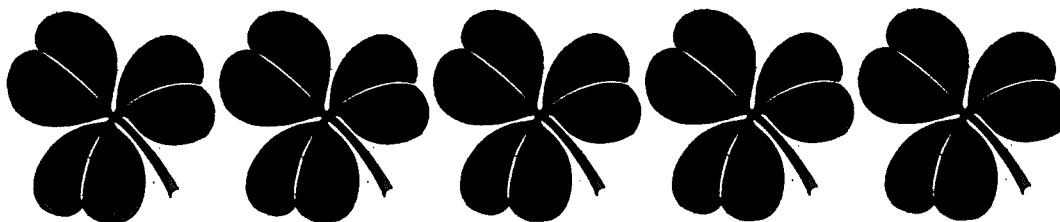
He was known as "Mr. Bid" by his students. His relationship with both the faculty and students was one of mutual respect. However, respect was only part of his legacy at Conwell-Egan. He was beloved by all those who had the honor of knowing him. He was a loving father to twin daughters and his sudden death followed just after the birth of his first grandchild.

As the Conwell-Egan family continues to mourn Paul Bidlingmaier's death, there is some solace in knowing that, every time one walks by the first floor, Mr. Bid's spirit is sure to be there with them.

Fred Firmani
Conwell-Egan Catholic

FSA REMINDER

If you were a participant in the 2012 FSA Program, please remember that all monies in your account should have been exhausted by **December 31, 2012**. Any funds that remained in your account after December 31, 2012 have been lost to you. However, this does not mean that all your eligible expenses had to be submitted by December 31, 2012. You have **90 days** after the close of the calendar year in which to submit eligible expenses for 2012. All eligible expenses for 2012 must be submitted by **March 30, 2013**.



REMINDER

This is a reminder that the ACT Office has gone green. Teachers who have provided us with a personal email address have been receiving information such as Executive Board Minutes and other updates via email.

Each teacher was provided with a username and password for the ACT Webpage where they can log in and update their personal information. Please check your information and make sure it is accurate. If you do not have your username and/or password, please contact Ginny at the ACT Office and she can provide you with this information.

ACT MEMBER SERVICE PROGRAM

The following tickets are available to purchase from the ACT Office.

AMC Movie Tickets	\$ 6.50
Regal/United Artists	\$ 6.50

To request tickets, send a check made payable to the Association of Catholic Teachers with a note indicating what tickets are being ordered and in what quantity.

R. I. P. Butch

It never occurred to me, when I first met Anthony “Butch” Capuano, that I would know this man for the next fifty-two years of my life. I was a junior at Bishop Neumann High School during the academic year 1959-1960 when Butch took over our Algebra II class at mid-year. The previous Teacher left the school; it wouldn’t surprise me if the “cool” guys and their wild antics had something to do with his departure. Me? All I wanted to do was to learn Algebra, and for that first semester even the term “quadratic equation” scared me. It was too zany in that class to learn. To my delight, Butch came in and scared the daylights out of the in-crowd. Believe me, these boys were too intimidated by his menacing appearance, booming voice and don’t-mess-with-me attitude to utter a syllable without his stern permission. Now, I loved it that I could learn Algebra.



Soon after I joined him as a colleague at Neumann in September 1965. We younger teachers became very aware of the kids’ fear of deviating from his imposed vision of what constituted proper classroom decorum. At the beginning of each school year, the students would be spreading the word among one another about how Mr. Capuano “ripped a phone book” in front of their eyes. The kids definitely got the message.

Many of my fellow faculty who worked with him during his teaching years are now retired. I am sure that they, like me, have their own personal thoughts about Butch. I greatly respect their opinions and thoughts about him, whatever they may be. We could probably sit around for hours entertaining ourselves with Butch stories. I always felt that “Cap”, straight up, either liked you or he didn’t like you—and you didn’t know why in either case. He just never sugarcoated anything. During the early 1980’s, he refused to speak to me for about three months (until this day I don’t know why). Then one day he declared that our little feud (what feud, I kept asking myself?) was over.

Butch’s love of teaching was matched by his love of cooking. After our faculty Christmas parties, he’d invite some of us to his house on South 18th Street for more food, beverages, and fun. The food he had prepared was to die for. His love of the Christmas holidays was intertwined with his love of cooking. He and one of our priest faculty, Fr. Vincent Van de Weyer, would spend days preparing food for family and friends leading up to the holidays.

To this day, Butch’s former students whom I bump into—many of them grandparents at this point—enthusiastically describe many and varied tales depicting their classroom experiences with him. But the common themes that permeate all these stories are the detailed preparedness with which he infused all of his teaching, and the extra one-on-one time he always gladly gave to students who were lost in the mathematical weeds.

Butch, you were a great man, a great teacher.

Until we meet again, sleep easy, big guy.

***Domenick D’Orazio
Neumann-Goretti***

Archdiocesan High Schools

TAX INFORMATION

2012 DUES

\$555.70

(13 pays x \$27.30 + 8 pays x \$25.10)

Seniority Lists Posted

(for school only)

Article V, Section 1b states "On or before April 1 of each school year, the Secondary School System shall supply to the Association and shall post in each school a complete listing of all full-time teachers in that school including those on approved leaves of absence arranged according to school seniority."

"Teachers shall have until May 1 to call attention in writing to errors or file grievances with the local school administration concerning their positions on the seniority roster."

Lancer's Local

Issues or contractual items of interest to
Holy Cross H. S. (Delran, NJ)

Holy Cross 2012 Union Dues

\$527.80

(10 months at \$52.78)

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**TUESDAY
APRIL 9, 2013**

4:00 P. M.

**Crowne Plaza
Philadelphia Main Line**

**AGENDA
State of the Union
Constriction
Negotiations 2014**