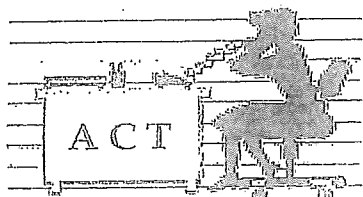


# THE

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 XXXII - NO. 6  
Fax 215-568-8270 - email ([nacst.nacst@verizon.net](mailto:nacst.nacst@verizon.net)) - web site ([www.act1776.com](http://www.act1776.com)) - May-June 2012



## From The President's Desk

### THE 2011-2012 SCHOOL YEAR:

### NO PICNIC AT THE BEGINNING, BUT A GREAT ONE AT THE END

From beginning to end, the 2011-2012 school year has been a roller coaster ride of epic proportions.

September brought us a two-week extremely successful strike and a brand-new Archbishop. The strike let everyone in the Archdiocese and beyond know that the high school teacher members of the Association of Catholic Teachers were not going to be treated like Walmart workers. Our teachers and our Union remain strong and united. However, perhaps it was not the nicest way to welcome our new Archbishop.

No sooner was the strike over than the Blue Ribbon Commission Report took center stage. The October announcement was changed to January 6th and, unfortunately, with this came additional decisions about no universal visitation day and no collection of registration fees. Then, the "hit list"

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

## FROM THE PRESIDENT. . .

appeared. Not only were 4 of our high schools on it, but a sizable group of feeder parish schools, as well. Thankfully, the Archbishop created an appeals process for both the elementary and the high schools.

February 24th brought the wonderful news that all four of the high schools and a number of elementary schools would remain open. For this we sincerely thank Archbishop Chaput and the Faith in the Future Foundation. It's now imperative for all of us to work hard to keep the schools open and thriving.

One group didn't fare well with the Blue Ribbon situation and that was our colleagues in the elementary schools. With no union and no negotiated contract, there was also no just treatment. In the paired and regionalized schools, teachers had to reapply for jobs they had held for years. Not surprisingly, there was no equitable process for how their future employment was determined. ACT is currently working with a number of elementary teachers so that the incredibly insensitive and unjust treatment doesn't happen again.

With the spotlight on our schools and the threat of losing them, there was a renewed push for Educational Vouchers. As a matter of justice, the parents of our students need to have true freedom of choice in regard to where they send their children. This can only be accomplished if they have the financial ability to choose.

With parents, students and teachers contacting the members of the Pennsylvania House and Senate and urging them to make Educational Choice a reality, we hope to see a vote sometime in June. We, as Catholic school teachers, need to make our voices heard. We must counteract the public school teacher unions who are rabidly anti-voucher.

As the school year draws to a close, we all deserve a happy and restful summer. Thank you, again, for your tremendous support throughout the year.

See you at the ACT Solidarity Picnic on June 16th.



## PERSONAL E-MAIL ADDRESSES NEEDED

This is a reminder that the ACT Office went green as of January, 2011. Teachers who have provided us with their personal e-mail address have been receiving information such as Executive Board Minutes and other updates via e-mail.

Please note that, under the new contract, department head, administrative, coaching and moderator openings will no longer be posted on July 9, July 30 and August 15. The openings will now be posted as they occur. Starting this summer, the openings will be sent to you via your personal e-mail address. They will also be posted on the ACT web site, [www.act1776.com](http://www.act1776.com).

Information that you need to know over the summer will be sent to your personal e-mail address. If you have not provided the ACT Office with a personal e-mail address, please do so now. Otherwise, you will not receive any information from ACT. Association information will not be sent to a school e-mail address.

Also, at the beginning of the school year, each teacher was provided with a username and password for the ACT web page. Please log in and, if necessary, update your personal information. If you do not have your username and/or password, you can contact Ginny at the ACT Office and she will provide you with this information.

The summer editions of the ACT newsletter, *The Spirit of '76*, will be sent to you by regular mail. You need to make sure that your personal information listed on the ACT web page is accurate.

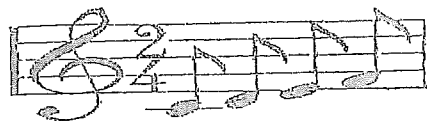
Have a great summer!



On Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, Rita C. Schwartz presented each teacher in the above picture with a plaque in recognition of 25 or 50 years of service to the students in the Archdiocesan high schools.

Seated (L to R): Patricia Hicks - Cardinal O'Hara (25 years), Rita C. Schwartz, Alice Dowling - Bishop Shanahan (25 years), Maryanne Rayer - Little Flower (25 years)

Standing (L to R): Kevin Waters - Archbishop Carroll (25 years), Anthony Matz - Bishop Shanahan (25 years), Vincent Donohue - Bonner-Prendergast (50 years), David Horn - Bishop McDevitt (50 years).



## A Few Notes Of Thanks !

**From: John J. Reilly Scholarship Award Winners**

**“Each year, the Association’s Executive Board awards a \$500 Scholarship to the 9<sup>th</sup> grader in each Archdiocesan high school and at Holy Cross High School, Delran, New Jersey who has the highest general average as of the end of the first semester. If that student is already on scholarship, it is given to the highest student not receiving financial assistance. The \$500 Scholarship is sent to each school to be applied to the student’s 10<sup>th</sup> grade tuition.”**

Dear Association of Catholic Teachers,

I would like to thank you for the \$500 scholarship that was given to me by the Association of Catholic Teachers. Receiving this award means a lot to me and my family, especially because I am not receiving any other tuition assistance or financial aid. This scholarship makes it easier for my parents to pay for me to attend Roman Catholic High School. Overall, without Catholic teachers or Catholic schools, I would not be where I am today.

Sincerely,  
*Bill Schmidt*

Dear Ms. Schwartz:

Thank you very much for the \$500 scholarship. It is greatly appreciated by my entire family. The scholarship will help motivate me to do my best in sophomore year at Little Flower. Receiving this is an honor. Thanks again the Association of Catholic Teachers.

Sincerely,  
*Catherine McAna*

Dear Miss Schwartz,

Thank you very much for the scholarship. This year at Bishop Shanahan has been wonderful, and I look forward to next year greatly. It brings me joy that there are those who wish for my tenth grade year to be wonderful as well. I will be forever grateful for what has been given. Thank you again and God bless.

Sincerely,  
*Joseph Kelly*

# *Sabbaticals Awarded for 2012-2013*

Two ACT members have been granted a Sabbatical Leave for the 2012-2013 school year. One full year sabbatical is available. Two teachers are receiving one semester each. The Sabbatical Leave Committee members from ACT were Chris DeNuccio (St. Hubert), Joe Schuler (Conwell-Egan) and Irene Tori (ACT Staff). Representing OCE were Theresa Ryan-Szott (Director of Secondary Personnel) and Tom Rooney (Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Schools).

The Association extends best wishes to the following recipients:

*Edward Griffiths (49 years) - Bonner-Prendergast (one semester)*  
*Paul Finley (43 years) - Bishop Shanahan (one semester)*

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## *Congratulations!*

Congratulations to Cardinal O'Hara Science teacher, Senior Delegate and ACT Executive Secretary, Tom Imburgia, who received a 2012 *Excellence in Teaching Award* for Delaware County. Tom's picture, along with the other Delaware County recipients, appeared in the April 16, 2012 edition of The Delaware County Daily Times.

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Congratulations to Maureen Keppard-Pedlow, Mathematics Department Head and teacher at Father Judge, on being awarded the 2012 *Delaware Valley Engineers Week Outstanding Math Teacher Award*. The award, which recognized her outstanding commitment and achievements, was administered by the Philadelphia Engineering Foundation in February in conjunction with Engineers Week.

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Congratulations to Archbishop Ryan Math teacher, Thomas O'Connell, and to Ryan Theology teacher and ACT Executive Board member, Chuck Panepresso, on receiving the *Spirit of Ryan Award*. Tom is a 1970 graduate of Ryan and Chuck is from the Class of 1979.

# BLUECARD WORLDWIDE

## HOW TO OBTAIN MEDICAL CARE WHEN OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES

1. If an emergency, go to the nearest hospital.
2. If not an emergency, call the BlueCard Access line at 1-800-810-2583 or call collect at 1-804-673-1177 to arrange for urgent care services with a BlueCard Worldwide hospital or physician. The Voice Response Unit (VRU) prompt will ask if you are seeking care outside the United States. Calls are then routed to World Access.
3. Obtain Personal Choice Pre-certification by calling 1-800-332-2566. For Keystone Pre-certification, call 1-800-227-3116.
4. For urgent inpatient care arranged through World Access, you will not have to pay up front for the services or file a claim. You only pay the usual out-of-pocket expenses such as deductible, co-payment or co-insurance.
5. For urgent outpatient and physician services, pay the provider up front. Get an itemized bill translated into English. Later, complete an international claim form and send it to the BlueCard worldwide Service enter. This claim is available at <http://www.bcbs.com>

## OTHER IMPORTANT AND USEFUL INFORMATION

Did you know that you can log on to the **Independence Blue Cross website at [www.ibxpress.com](http://www.ibxpress.com)** and get all kinds of information at your fingertips? You can make sure that all your family members are active on your policy; you can order identification cards for them and/or print temporary ID cards; you can also check recent and past claims, find a provider, view the details of your benefits, and so much more.

In the same way, you can log on to the **United Concordia website at [www.ucci.com](http://www.ucci.com)** and check the status of dental claims, find a provider, order a dental card, etc.

## **ACT MEMBER SERVICE PROGRAM**

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

AMC Movie Tickets	\$ 6.00
Regal/United Artists	\$ 6.50
Philadelphia Zoo	\$13.00
Morey's Piers, Wildwood	
Waterpark Tickets	\$29.00
Amusement/Waterpark Combo Ticket	\$47.00

Discount coupons also available for Dorney Park and Caesar's Pocono Resorts.

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.

## **FREEDOM CREDIT UNION**

The Freedom Credit Union offers teachers and their families a wide range of financial opportunities. Savings accounts, checking accounts, loans, MAC, IRAs, to name a few, are available to members of the credit union.

The Freedom Credit Union has four Philadelphia locations, as well as an office in Abington, Lansdale and Warminster. For more information visit the credit union's website at [www.freedomcu.org](http://www.freedomcu.org). You may also call the ACT Office at 215-568-4175 or the Freedom Credit Union at 215-612-5900.

# Making Sense of Money and Banking: A 5-Day Course for Teachers

- When: July 16 through July 20, 2012  
8:00 A. M. to 3:30 P. M.
- Where: Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia  
7<sup>th</sup> and Arch Streets  
Philadelphia, PA 19106
- Cost: \$50.00 registration fee (credit card only)  
Register: Online at [www.philadelphiafed.org/education/](http://www.philadelphiafed.org/education/)  
Deadline: July 2, 2012
- For more information: Contact Dr. Andrew T. Hill,  
Economic Education Advisor, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia  
[andrew.hill@phil.frb.org](mailto:andrew.hill@phil.frb.org)
- Credit: Business and Technology teachers who complete all five days of the course will receive 30 hours of professional development credit in their respective states.

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## Educational Opportunity

Neumann University is offering free career counseling and three master's degree programs at half off the usual tuition for all Archdiocese of Philadelphia Catholic school teachers who lose their positions in 2012. The programs available for the discount are education, organizational and strategic leadership, and pastoral care and counseling. Teachers must enroll by the start of the May 2013 summer session.



## ADDITIONAL REMINDERS

**ACT OFFICE HOURS** -- During the summer, the Office will be open between the hours of 9:30 AM and 3:30 PM.

**ADDRESS CHANGES** -- If you are in the process of moving or have already moved to a new address, don't forget to call the ACT Office with your new address and phone number. You can also visit the ACT Webpage and log-on to your personal page and update your information.

**DENTAL AND VISION CARDS** -- If you are in need of additional dental and/or vision cards, please call the ACT Office at 215-568-4175 or e-mail your request to [ginny@act1776.com](mailto:ginny@act1776.com).

**MEDICAL CARDS** -- If you are in need of additional medical cards, please call the Office of Catholic Education at 215-587-3689 or contact the ACT Office.

**RETIREMENT INFORMATION** -- The ACT Office has put together some medical information (rates, comparison sheets and contract provisions) for teachers who are considering retirement in the near future. If you are considering an early retirement or if you will be reaching the age for normal retirement, call the ACT Office at 215-568-4175 for your retirement packet. You may also email your request to [nacst.nacst@verizon.net](mailto:nacst.nacst@verizon.net) or to [ginny@act1776.com](mailto:ginny@act1776.com).



R. Schwartz and I. Tori attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new baseball field and the new multi-purpose field at Father Judge High School.

Fr. Dalton, OSFS (principal), Fr. Campellone, OSFS (president) and Fr. Kolodziej, OSFS (APSA) look on as Rita cuts the ribbon.

The staff of the Association  
of Catholic Teachers is  
looking forward to seeing  
you and your family at the

**SOLIDARITY PICNIC**

on

**SATURDAY,  
JUNE 16, 2012**

at

**CLEMENTON PARK AND  
SPLASH WORLD**

If you are an active ACT Member and did not sign up to attend the picnic on June 16<sup>th</sup> but would like to come, there are still some tickets available. Contact Ginny at 215-568-4175 by Wednesday, June 4, 2012, to make arrangements to attend the picnic on June 16, 2012.