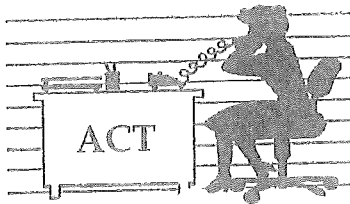


THE

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 XXXIV- NO. 2
Fax 215-568-8270 - email (nacst.nacst@verizon.net) - web site (www.act1776.com) - October 2013



From The President's Desk

EARLY BIRD NEGOTIATIONS GET A THUMBS UP!

On October 2, 2013, the Association contacted the Secretary for Catholic Education with a proposal for an Early Bird Contract. In part, the Association said "Streamlining negotiations to reduce talks to a few significant contract areas and reach a contract settlement prior to the close of the 2013-2014 school year can only be a win-win for both the System and the Association. I certainly agree with you that this would be 'in the best interest of our kids, our families and our teachers.'"

On October 16, the Secretary for Catholic Education responded. "I am very much eager, like you, to begin the process so as to assure our families and our teachers long before they break for the summer that our schools are moving forward. It is my sense at this point that everyone is on board with the idea of an early bird and I am confident that we can get this done in an efficient and timely manner."

The process now begins: we will draw up the protocols, set opening and finishing dates, select our Teams and prepare our proposals.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

FROM THE PRESIDENT. . .

ACT will be sending out surveys to our members asking for ideas for the new Labor-Management Agreement. The ACT Team will put our proposals together and ACT members will vote their approval at a membership meeting prior to the start of negotiations.

While all of us are very happy that there will be an Early Bird and that the scope of negotiations will be limited, the issues will be substantive. What is different is the attitude with which both Teams will be approaching the issues, certainly a welcome change from 2011.

The Association will keep the membership updated as we work through the process.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ACT MEMBERS

All teachers are asked to logon to the ACT Website (www.act1776.com) and verify your personal information **no later than November 22, 2013**. It is critical that we have your current information and that it is accurate, since this is a contract year. It is important that we have a **PERSONAL** email address for you, since contract information and updates, Executive Board Minutes, and other pertinent information will be sent via email. We cannot and will not send email to a school email address.

Every teacher was provided with a username and password for the ACT Website. If you do not have this information, please contact Ginny at the ACT Office at 215-568-4175 or email her at ginny@act1776.com and she can provide this information to you.

To update your personal information, logon to the ACT Website and, in the upper right hand corner of the homepage, click on member login. Type in your username and password and then verify the information on file. Any changes made will be sent to the ACT Office automatically.

Lancer's Local

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

Lessons Taught and Learned

I had the honor of knowing Mr. Dranchak before I entered Holy Cross High School. Most of the students at St. Charles thought of him as "the big, loving, Care Bear". He was always happy, kind, reverent, and sociable with everyone he met.

I did not have him for Math until my junior year, but no matter where I saw him—the hallway, a study hall, the café, or even outside of school—he made sure to say hello and ask how my day was going.

Mr. Dranchak was the epitome of a Catholic school teacher; not only teaching his subject matter but also guiding us to be better people through modeling Jesus' teaching. He made all of his students aspire to be our best and to always be kind and humble.

It wasn't until I became a teacher at North Catholic that I learned St. Francis de Sales' teachings, "*Be who you are and be that well*" and "*Nothing is so strong as gentleness, nothing so gentle as real strength.*" When I heard those teachings, I thought of the many lessons all of my Holy Cross teachers taught me, especially Mr. Dranchak. I aspire to be like him in my classroom.

I think I can speak for all of his former students when I say we were lucky to have had him as a teacher and blessed to have had him as a friend. Farewell until we all meet again.



Peggy Schweikert-Kavalkovich
HCHS Class of 1993
St. Hubert High School



More Notes of Thanks!

From: John J. Reilly Scholarship Award Winners

“Each year, the Association’s Executive Board awards a \$500 Scholarship to the 9th 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 10th grade tuition.”

Dear Ms. Schwartz,

Please accept our appreciation for the ACT Scholarship of \$500. It will be applied, as directed, to the 2013-2014 tuition of Laura Lindmeier. As the Lansdale Catholic High School community implements our strategic plan for the future, your financial and spiritual support allows our school to continue with its mission of truly being *“A learning community, teaching values for life, through a formative Catholic education.”*

...In the words of our late Pope John Paul II, *“Few efforts are more important for the present and future well being of the Church and of the nation than efforts expended in the work of education.”* May our Patroness, St. Therese of Lisieux, continue to intercede for us, as we do our very best to meet the needs of all our region’s students.

Mr. James W. Casey
President

Ms. Aisling Ardiff
Director of Institutional Advancement &
Alumni Affairs

Dear Rita,

On behalf of our scholarship students, I want to thank you and the Association for your tuition payment.

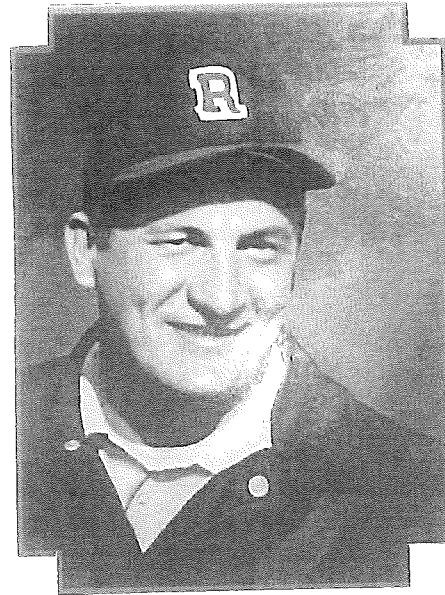
Wishing you a good school year and the best of everything.

Gratefully,
Dennis Guida
Principal, Holy Cross HS

Everyman

John Quinn was a teacher. The lessons went far beyond the classrooms of Cardinal Dougherty or Archbishop Ryan, where he was on the original faculty, or Roman Catholic. They extended to his unexpected visits to the sickbeds and funerals of graduates and their families. Quiet, unassuming, consoling.

John Quinn was a coach. He was a six-time Catholic League Football Coach of the Year, who won both the North and South championships, while leading four different teams to the playoffs. Beyond the X's and O's, however, he coached his young charges that if losing a championship football game was the worst thing that ever happened to them, then they would have lived charmed lives.



John Quinn was a mentor. Many a student or youthful colleague looked up to John as a father figure. Jim "Gator" McCoy, a fellow teacher, referred to John as a "mentor, a facilitator for the young Ryan faculty back in the early '70's." Bob Fox, Ryan class of 1983, echoed the feelings of many when he wrote, "I thought of that man over the last thirty years as equal to my own father who was by far the greatest man I have ever known."

John Quinn was a fighter. After a stint in the Army during the Korean War, John was a member of the football team at Notre Dame and also a champion of the Bengal Bouts Boxing Club. His biggest fight, however, was his eighteen-year battle with cancer. Eighteen rounds that he fought with the heart of a George Gipp, a Knute Rockne, a Rocky Marciano. You would never know when he was hurting, because he talked more about you than he talked about himself.

John Quinn was a character. If you attended a social event with him, it was not unusual to look over at his name tag and find that you were standing next to "Cary Grant." John Quinn was a lady's man. John Quinn was a man's man. John Quinn was Everyman.

John once published a book called, *Things I Wish I Had Said*. It was a book of quotations, so it's only appropriate that we finish with a quote. This one was offered by Rus Slawter, a former Ryan football player, which he attributed to Leonardo DaVinci: "As a well spent day brings happy sleep, so life well used brings happy death."

Bob Clothier
Archbishop Ryan High School



What a difference two years makes! In February 2011, West Catholic was on the verge of closing. But in a great act of faith, West---along with three other Archdiocesan high schools---was saved to fight another day. We were given the opportunity to continue teaching and mentoring the youth of West Philadelphia and Southern Delaware County.

On September 10, 2013, West Catholic took another step forward in its transformation with a name change—**West Catholic Preparatory High School**. Visiting dignitaries for the event were Auxiliary Bishop Fitzgerald, Mr. Christopher Mominey and Dr. Carol Cary (Office of Catholic Education), Councilwoman Janie Blackwell (representing Mayor Nutter), Mr. Alfonse Gabriele (West Catholic Board of Directors), and Mr. Casey Carter (CEO, Faith in the Future Foundation).

The students of West Catholic realize they were given a tremendous gift two years ago, one that they must cherish, as seen by their attentiveness to the distinguished guests. Mr. Christopher Mominey expressed to the students how God’s gifts come in different shapes and packages and how West Catholic Preparatory High School was a very special present. Mr. Joseph Dollard, moderator of West’s National Honor Society, explained the history of the West Catholic Boys’ flag from 1916, the West Catholic Girls’ flag from 1927, and the combined West Catholic flag from 1989.

Everyone at West Catholic believes that our new flag represents a spirited new beginning with monumental possibilities. Freshman Jo’Nelle Grant “really enjoyed the stories they told with the flags. It was very informative, and I am glad they are starting a new generation with me included in it.”

On September 12, 2013, the West Catholic community held a school ceremony outside to bless the new sign on the Music Building wall on Chestnut Street. Now as you drive down Chestnut Street to get to Center City, you cannot miss West Catholic Preparatory High School in University City. Junior Chanel Robinson-Hill said it best. “Being a student here at West Catholic has changed me tremendously. During the flag ceremony, I noticed how many people truly care about West and the history behind my school. We have come a long way from being West Catholic High School for Boys to West Catholic Preparatory High School. The attention paid by so many important people let me know that West is alive and well. It was a nice and happy ceremony. Attending West Catholic has brought me closer to God and helps me gain a better future. At West Catholic I know I have a great future waiting for me.”

*Nicole Roper
Senior Delegate
West Catholic*

**FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNT
IMPORTANT ENROLLMENT INFORMATION**

If you elect to participate in the 2014 Flexible Spending Account Program, please be mindful of the following:

The **Health Care** Flexible Spending Account allows you to pay for qualified medical and health care costs for you and your dependents (family members covered under your medical plan). Eligible expenses include deductibles, co-payments, prescription glasses, orthodontia, and certain over-the-counter medicines and supplies.

The **Dependent Care** Flexible Spending Account helps you pay for child or elder care services so you and your spouse (if applicable) can work. Eligible expenses include child or elder care center, nursery or pre-school, after-school care and in-home care (for children and adults).

If you want reimbursement for health care expenses for you and your family members, you must check that you elect to participate in the Health Care FSA. If you need reimbursement for child or elder care expenses, you must check that you elect to participate in the Dependent Care FSA.

Please be very careful. If you check the Dependent Care FSA box and actually wanted the Health Care FSA, ***you will lose whatever money you apply to the Dependent Care FSA. There will be no reimbursement for monies put into the wrong account.***

Seniority Lists Posted

Article V, Section 1a states "On or before October 31 of each school year, the Secondary School System shall supply to the Association and shall post in the individual schools a complete listing of all teachers in the Secondary School System including those on approved leaves of absence arranged according to system seniority and school seniority."

"Teachers shall have until December 15 to call attention in writing to errors or file grievances with the local school administration concerning their positions on the seniority roster."

MEDICAL RATES FOR THE 2013-2014 PLAN YEAR

(NOVEMBER 1, 2013 - OCTOBER 31, 2014)

PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS OVER 17 PAYS

(Beginning with the November 8, 2013 pay and ending with the pay of June 20, 2014)

	<u>PERSONAL CHOICE PPO</u>		<u>KEYSTONE EAST HMO</u>	
Employee	\$ 79.15	(* \$6.09)	\$ 54.16	(* \$4.25)
Employee & child	\$160.13	(* \$12.24)	\$110.29	(* \$8.61)
Employee & children	\$178.71	(* \$13.66)	\$123.37	(* \$9.63)
Employee & Spouse	\$190.64	(* \$14.57)	\$131.57	(* \$10.27)
Full Family	\$208.93	(* \$15.96)	\$144.11	(* \$11.25)

*Increase over last year

PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS OVER 22 PAYS

(Beginning with the November 8, 2013 pay and ending with the pay of August 29, 2014)

	<u>PERSONAL CHOICE PPO</u>		<u>KEYSTONE EAST HMO</u>	
Employee	\$ 61.16	(* \$4.71)	\$41.85	(* \$3.28)
Employee & child	\$123.74	(* \$9.46)	\$85.23	(* \$6.66)
Employee & children	\$138.09	(* \$10.55)	\$95.33	(* \$7.44)
Employee & Spouse	\$147.31	(* \$11.26)	\$101.67	(* \$7.94)
Full Family	\$161.45	(* \$12.34)	\$111.36	(* \$8.69)

*Increase over last year