

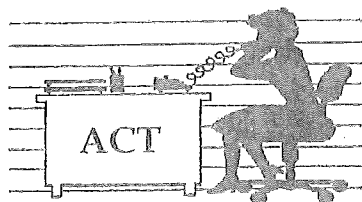
# THE

The Newspaper of Local 1776  
The Association of Catholic Teachers

# SPIRIT OF '76

1700 SANSOM STREET • SUITE 903 • PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103 • 215-568-4175 • VOLUME XXX

No. 6 - Fax 215-568-8270 - e-mail (nacst.nacst@verizon.net) - web site (www.act1776.com) - April 2010



From The  
President's Desk

## CONSTRUCTION 2010

There is some good news and lots of bad news. Four long-established schools will be closing their doors in June. The greater majority of the teachers at Kennedy-Kenrick and Pius X will transition to the brand-new state-of-the-art Pope John Paul II High School in Royersford. The faculties of North Catholic and Cardinal Dougherty will find themselves on the 2010 Constriction List. They will join some 52 other teachers, including 8 from the not-yet-opened Pope John Paul II, for this year's Constriction Roulette.

While we are happy that a new school is opening, there is tremendous concern surrounding the closing of North and Dougherty, large constrictions at several other schools and the potential elimination of nearly 120 teaching positions.

Enrollment figures are way down and the System's budget must be balanced. Once again, the usual suspects are rounded up. Tuition is increased and teachers' jobs are cut.

(Continued on page 2)

## FROM THE PRESIDENT. . .

The Constriction Procedure has been in place since 1975. It is equitable; however, tell that to a teacher who is low person in one of the constricted departments at his/her school. Tell that to a non-constricted teacher whose low system seniority may cause him/her to be bumped.

The Constriction List breaks down as follows: THEOLOGY - 15; ENGLISH - 14; SOCIAL STUDIES - 15; MATH - 12; SCIENCE - 12; WORLD LANGUAGE - 9; BUSINESS - 12; PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH - 5; FINE ARTS - 4; GUIDANCE - 5; LIBRARY - 2; LAY ADMINISTRATORS WHOSE ACADEMIC AREAS NEED TO BE POSTED - 5.

It is extremely important for teachers to check their transcripts for other possible competencies. If they are close to the twenty-four credits needed to declare a competency, they should think about taking on-line courses to get those last three to six credits. Having more than one competency could result in continued employment.

These last two months of the 2009-2010 school year are going to be very difficult ones on several levels for many of our teachers. The Constriction process will heat up. Extremely seasoned teachers who have spent their entire teaching careers at one school will be choosing new schools for the 2010-2011 school year. Catchwords such as "Hardship Forms," "Hybrid Subs" and "Bumping" will become very familiar to those on the System's List. As we do every year, the Association of Catholic Teachers will carefully monitor the 2010 Constriction Process.

Teachers with any questions or concerns should attend the ACT General Membership Meeting on Tuesday, April 20th at 4:00 P. M., at the Crowne Plaza, City Avenue. The major portion of the meeting will be devoted to the Constriction Process. Teachers may also contact the ACT Office at 215-568-4175 or by e-mail at [nacst.nacst@verizon.net](mailto:nacst.nacst@verizon.net).

I hope to see you at the General Membership Meeting on April 20th.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rita".

## **ACT MEMBER SERVICE PROGRAM**

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

Franklin Institute Tickets	-----	\$13.00
AMC Movie Tickets	-----	\$ 6.00
Regal/United Artists	-----	\$ 6.50
National Constitution Center	-----	\$ 7.50
Philadelphia Zoo	-----	\$13.00
Morey's Piers, Wildwood		
Waterpark Tickets	-----	\$26.00
Amusement Park Tickets	-----	\$41.00

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.

## **BJ'S WHOLESALE CLUB**

Its time to join or renew your BJ's Membership. Look for an application in your school mailbox. If interested in the BJ's Membership, **complete the form and return it to the ACT Office by May 1, 2010. Checks are to be made payable to BJ's Wholesale Club.** Retired teachers are also eligible to receive the group rate for a BJ's Membership. Please call the ACT Office at 215-568-4175 for an application.

## **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, an office in Lansdale and Warminster and, opening soon, a new branch in Abington. 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 .

## **MOONLIGHTING BOOKLET**

Any teacher interested in highlighting a business or hobby in ACT's annual Moonlighting Booklet, should send a business card/ flyer to the ACT Office no later than May 10, 2010.



# I See A Future Where, More Than Ever Before

## **...Teachers Need An Advocate**

Do you have what it takes to be a Senior Delegate?

If Social Justice in action, teacher dignity and respect are issues that you find important and would like to work with, then, consider running for Senior Delegate at your school.

## **SENIOR DELEGATE ELECTIONS (MAY 15TH - JUNE 1ST)**

Senior Delegates received a stipend of \$500 for the 2009-10 school year.

### **Responsibilities Include:**

Act as a liaison between your members and administration.  
Provide representation for your members in situations where any member reasonably feels that disciplinary action may occur.  
File grievances to settle issues of opposing interpretations of the contract.  
Encourage members to become familiar with and support the contract.  
Conduct meetings at the local level.  
Attend all meetings to represent your school.  
Encourage your members to attend all general membership meetings.  
Keep the Executive Board informed of local issues.  
Be responsible for conducting all union elections in the school.  
Be responsible for the A.C.T. bulletin board.  
Distribute information from the A.C.T. Office to the teachers.  
Perform duties assigned to you by the Executive Board.  
Be responsible for signing up new members and maintaining the good standing of present members.

### **Note:**

This is a good time to, once again, thank all of the Senior Delegates who have served the Union and their own school members so well this year. The A.C.T. Office and the Executive Board need and appreciate your work.

# Lancer's Local

Issues or contractual items of interest to Holy Cross H. S. (Delran N.J.)

## 25 Years of Service A Silver Celebration

The Association Of Catholic Teachers

congratulates its members who are celebrating their  
25th year of service to Holy Cross High School  
of the Diocese of Trenton.

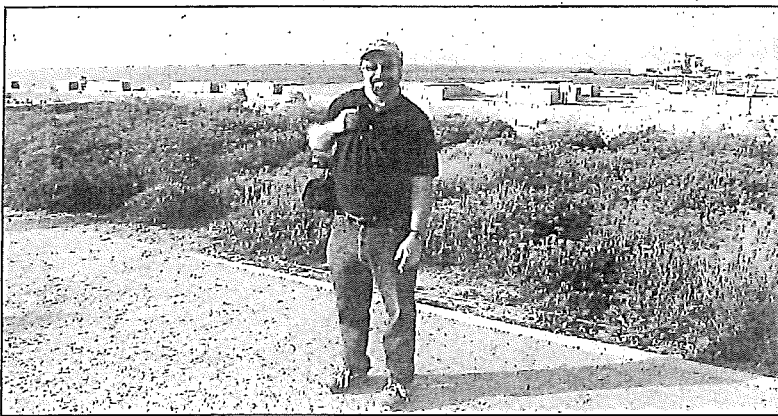
*Rosemary O'Connor*

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## LIFEstyle

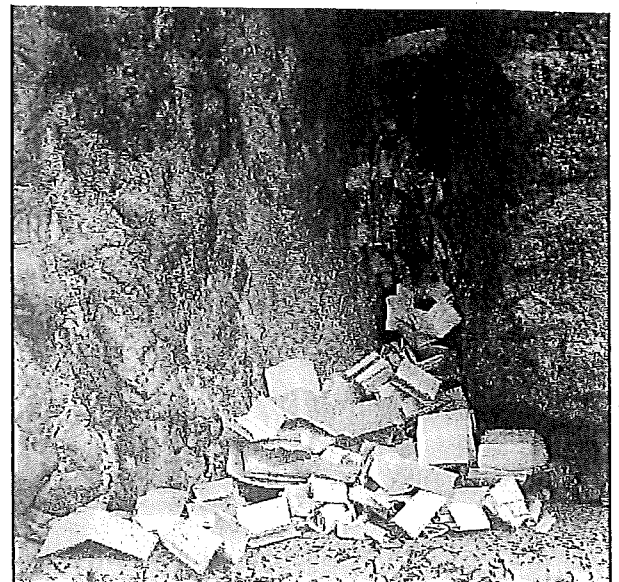
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### *The complexities of Israel*



Dr. Carl Tori at Caesarea, headquarters of Roman rule in Israel during the reign of King Herod the Great.

➤ Dr. Carl Tori, a religion teacher at Archbishop Ryan, has just returned from an interfaith mission to the Holy Land where he learned about the complex problems confronting Israel and the Middle East.



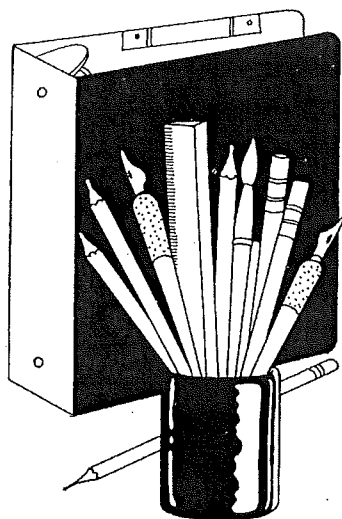
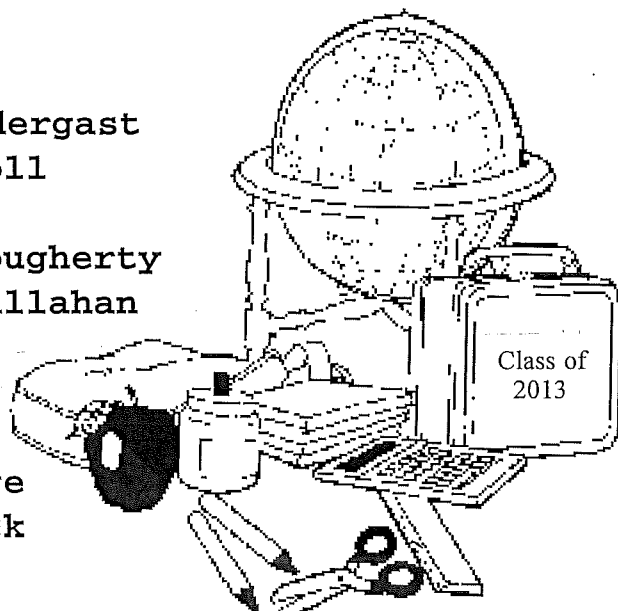
Dr. Carl Tori placed his student's prayer requests in the Western Wall.

# The 2010 Association of Catholic Teachers John J. Reilly \$500.00 Scholarship Awards

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## Our 9th Grade Scholars

Lea Millio - Monsignor Bonner &  
Archbishop Prendergast  
Faith Harrison - Archbishop Carroll  
Victoria Wilcox - Conwell-Egan  
Antonella Filipuzzi - Cardinal Dougherty  
Julianna Mastrangelo - John W. Hallahan  
Margaret Buck - Holy Cross  
Miranda Nelson - Holy Cross  
Jessica Lynn Conway - St. Hubert  
Michael Benedykciuk - Father Judge  
Danielle D'Amico - Kennedy-Kenrick  
Cole Sagan - Lansdale Catholic  
Megan Himes - Little Flower



Kaitlyn Anticoli - Bishop McDevitt  
Christopher Berry - Sts. John Neumann  
& Maria Goretti  
Timothy Storino - Northeast Catholic  
Charissa Ngoc Pham - Cardinal O'Hara  
Alexa Ruber - St. Pius X  
Patrick Prendergast - Roman Catholic  
Jillian Janowski - Archbishop Ryan  
Jonathan Weyand - Bishop Shanahan  
Mazi Richburg - West Catholic  
Maria Carilli - Archbishop Wood

- Congratulations From ACT -

A hand holding a sign with meeting information. The hand is wearing a striped sleeve and is holding a rectangular sign. The sign has text on it. The background is white.

**ACT**

**General Membership  
Meeting**

**Tuesday**

**April 20, 2010**

**4:00 P. M.**

**Crowne Plaza**

**Philadelphia**

**Main Line**

**Constriction  
School Closings**

**President's  
Report**