

THE

The Newspaper of Local 1776
The Association of Catholic Teachers

SPIRIT OF '76

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From The
President's Desk

ACT
General Membership
Meeting
Thursday
April 30, 2009
4:00 P. M.
Crowne Plaza
Philadelphia Main Line

Main Topic: Constriction



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 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 Rita,

We sincerely want to thank you for the \$500 scholarship that you and the Association have awarded to our daughter, Alicia. We really appreciate it. It will be put into the Education Fund that we have. We are so very proud of her and all that she has accomplished. Thanks again!

Sincerely,
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Rusnak
(Conwell-Egan Catholic)

Dear Ms. Schwartz,

I received your letter of March 6, 2009 informing me of the \$500 scholarship award from the Association of Catholic Teachers.

I would like to thank you for this generous gift. I am honored by the recognition.

Sincerely,
Rachel Jenkins
Bishop McDevitt H. S.

Dear Association of Catholic Teachers,

Thank you so much for awarding me with a \$500 scholarship. School work has always come first for me, and I will continue to work hard. It is very generous that you help out students such as me who put so much effort in doing well. This is extremely helpful as my sister is going to college next year. My family greatly appreciates it as well.

Thank you,
Julia Yearwood
St. Pius X High School

Dear Ms. Rita C. Schwartz,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support to students in the diocesan high schools. As one of this year's recipients of the Association of Catholic Teachers award scholarship, we are thankful for the opportunity that this award will provide for our son, David. Receiving this scholarship will help us with the much-needed assistance to our family as he continues pursuing his Catholic education.

As a freshman, David continues to focus on his studies & strives to be the best. In addition, he is also involved in extra curricular activities such as soccer, the Italian Club and recently requested to be included as an altar server. I know David considers Roman Catholic High School his second home. We are proud to have our son attend Roman Catholic and we are purple and gold from head to toe.

Once again, thank you for awarding David this scholarship.

Sincerely,
Mr. & Mrs. David Thomas Jr.



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 2008-09 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.

ATTENTION RETIREES

We have received several calls from retirees concerning the federal taxes taken from their pension check. You may have noticed that the federal taxes taken from your most recent pension check were lower than in previous checks. This is the result of the recent stimulus package passed in Washington. However, you should also know that the lowering of the federal withholding tax applies only to working people, since the stimulus package also provides for a \$250 stimulus check for those who are on Social Security.

While it is legal for the Archdiocese to have lowered your federal withholding tax, you should be aware that you will be taxed on this money later, and thus be responsible for paying it back. To avoid this situation, you should contact the Pension Office at 215-587-0570 and request a form to change your federal tax withholding back to where it was originally.

BJ's Wholesale Club

BJ's Applications are due on April 30, 2009. Please make checks payable to BJ's Wholesale Club. Mail your application and check to the Association of Catholic Teachers, 1700 Sansom Street, Suite 903, Philadelphia, PA 19103.

MOONLIGHTING BOOKLET

If you would like to promote your business and/or craft in the Association's Moonlighting Booklet, send your ad and/or business card to the ACT Office no later than April 30, 2009.

Lancer's Local

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

The Holy Cross community is mourning the death of retired teacher, Ernie Gunn.

A Celebration of Life

Madeline Willette passed away on March 13, 2009 and we at SS. John Neumann and Maria Goretti High School have come together to celebrate the life she shared with us for 30 years.

One needed only to have spent 30 seconds with Maddy to realize hers was a full and well-rounded life that touched so many other lives. She would talk about her nephews, her family in Atlanta and North Carolina and her many friends. Her face, especially her eyes, would light up.

Her love, joy and wicked sense of humor were always evident. Even when beset with serious medical problems over the last three years, her smile and sense of humor never deserted her and she freely shared them with all of us.

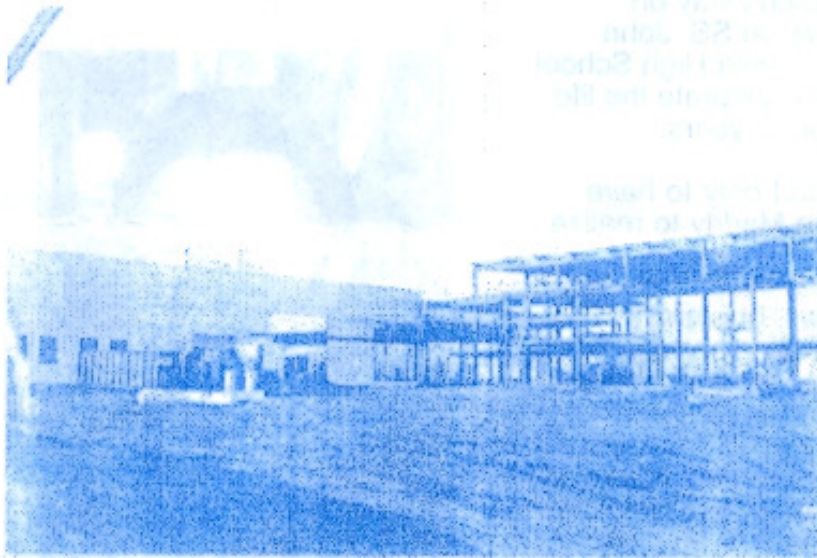
Of course, we remember Maddy most as a colleague and friend who for 30 years changed countless lives both through her work in the classroom and as a cross country and track coach. But we also remember that, for those same 30 years, she would sit across from us in the cafeteria passionately engaged in debate over whatever sport was in season. Maddy was just "one of the guys."

It is hard to sum up 30 years of collegiality and friendship and shared conversations across the cafeteria tables. It is even harder to say goodbye to Maddy. We will all miss her.



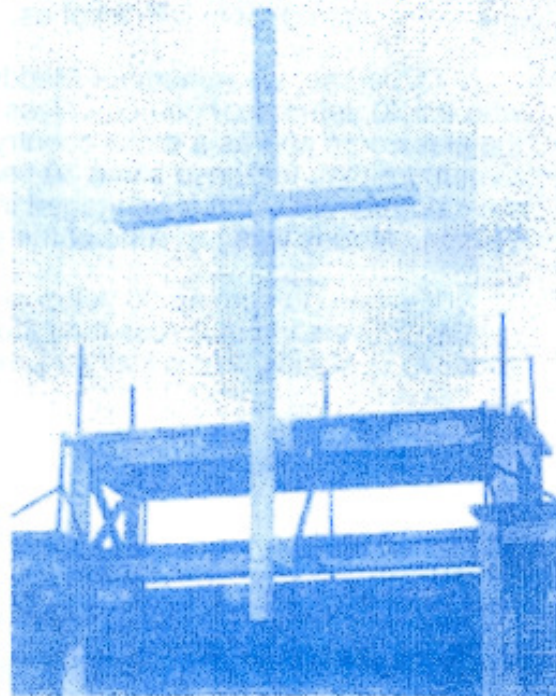
*Patricia Slicco
Principal
SS. John Neumann &
Maria Goretti High School*

Cross Raising Ceremony Pope John Paul II High School



Status of construction.
New school set to open
in September, 2010.

Cross was raised on
April 2, 2009, the
anniversary of Pope
John Paul II's death.



Sabbaticals Awarded for 2009-2010

Four ACT members have been granted a Sabbatical Leave for the 2009-2010 school year. Two full year sabbaticals are available. Each teacher is receiving a one semester sabbatical. The Sabbatical Leave Committee members from ACT were John Zoccola (Archbishop Wood) and Irene Tori (ACT Staff). Representing OCE were Mary Rochford, Superintendent of Schools, Theresa Ryan-Szott, Director of Secondary Personnel and Louis Giuliano, Educational Financial Services.

The Association extends best wishes to the following recipients:

Chris DeNuccio - Saint Hubert (40 years)

Jim McDonald - Father Judge (40 years)

Joe Zarroke - Father Judge (38 years)

Pat Berry - Saint Hubert (37 years)

Teachers in the News



Joanne and Daniel Tarant with adopted twins Nya Mary Grace and John Paul Kato from Uganda.

This picture appeared in the March 5, 2009 edition of *The Catholic Standard and Times*.

**Congratulations,
Dan and Joanne!**

Wind Turbine 101

Ms. Nora Kasper, Father Judge High School, and 20 of her science students have been working with a grass roots organization to construct a Wind Turbine. Judge is the first school to embark on this Green Adventure. This pilot program has been named WATTAGE (Wind Activated Turbine To Achieve Green Energy). The hope is that the turbine will power something on the Father Judge campus.

Way to go, Nora!

ACT MEMBER SERVICE PROGRAM

Members of the Association of Catholic Teachers may purchase discounted tickets directly from the ACT Office for the following attractions:

Franklin Institute Tickets - \$13.00

AMC Movie Tickets ----- \$6.00
(can also be used at the Loews Theater in Cherry Hill NJ)

Regal/United Artists ---- \$6.00

National Constitution Center - \$7.50

Philadelphia Zoo ----- \$13.00

To purchase any of the tickets listed above, send a check payable to the Association of Catholic Teachers with a note indicating the ticket and the quantity being ordered.

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 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."