

THE SPIRIT OF '76

The Newspaper of Local 1776
The Association of Catholic Teachers

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From The President's Desk

A HAPPENING

The place was filled with over 900 high school lay teachers. No, it wasn't a contract ratification meeting. It was a Mass which Cardinal Rigali asked to say for all involved in the mission of Catholic high school education. The amount of positive feedback received by ACT from the hundreds of teachers who attended the Cardinal's Mass on February 2nd was amazing. Joe Brandley of Bishop McDevitt High School said it best in his e-mail to me.



FROM THE PRESIDENT. . .

What an impressive event Friday's Mass was. I heard myself referred to as a "partner" and as a "friend" on more than one occasion during the Cardinal's homily and other comments during the Mass. Certainly, these are words I have never heard with any kind of honest intent during my 35 year career in the system by any prelate at any level. Sure, we get those occasional words in print that come across as nothing more than expected platitudes with a hollow ring; but this time, the words came from the "boss" himself after having personally invited all of us to be present to hear them. Quite a difference for me!

The eternal optimist that remains in me really hopes that Friday's event is the first step in perhaps a "win win" situation in the near future. The current ad campaign in support of Catholic schools is, of itself, somewhat of historical proportions and is to be commended.

The Mass was a subject of considerable discussion at McDevitt, a place little known for being a hotbed of rebellion. I can only imagine what discussions took place at schools much more contentious than we are.

The attendance on Friday is loud testimony to your leadership in encouraging that we attend. Many of us continue to hope that a true "partnership" in the interest of a school system that we have invested our lives in becomes a reality.

I think I speak for all teachers when I say "Thank you, Cardinal Rigali." Your kind invitation and your words of praise were extremely well-received by your teachers.



Immediately following the Cardinal's Mass, ACT President, Rita Schwartz and Secretary for Catholic Education, Richard McCarron, signed the 2006-2008 Labor-Management Agreement.

The contract will now be printed and should be in the teachers' hands shortly.

Archdiocesan High Schools
TAX INFORMATION
2006 DUES
\$400.00

THEOLOGY TEACHERS

You may have received a form entitled "Request for Determination of Theology Certification" from the Office of Catholic Education. This form is coming to you as a result of the 2006 Negotiations. Article IV, Section 1 reads, in part, "Diocesan Certification for Teachers of Theology in the System shall be granted if the teacher possesses a competency in Theology (twenty-four (24) credits from a Catholic college or university) and eighteen (18) credits in Education from an accredited college or university."

Therefore, if you are a teacher currently being paid on the Bachelor's Scale and think you have the credits necessary to be moved to the Bachelor's plus Certification Scale, you should complete the "Request for Determination of Theology Certification" form.

NOTICE

It's time to start thinking sabbatical!

Applications for sabbatical leave must be submitted no later than **March 1st**.

It's time to start thinking about your decision to possibly apply.

Forms for application will be posted in each school in February.

Lancer's Local

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

At a membership meeting held on January 25, 2007, the members, in a 28 to 13 vote, agreed with the changes in the contract that must be made in order to accommodate the introduction of block scheduling for the 2007-2008 school year. Some details are still in process.

The faculty thanks the ACT Staff for their assistance throughout this process.

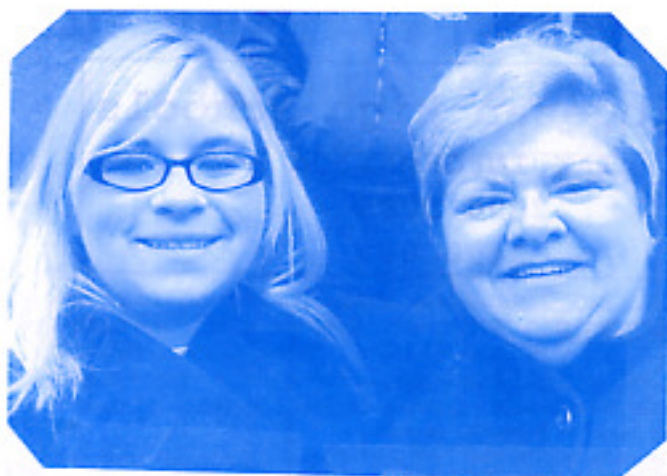
Tax Information: Union Dues for 2006 are \$400.

NOTICE

Voluntary Transfer

**Applications for voluntary transfers must be
submitted no later than April 1st.**

(Forms will be posted by March 1st.)



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IMPORTANT MEDICAL INFORMATION

INTRODUCING "NO PAY COPAY"

January 1, 2007 through March 31, 2007

From January 1, 2007 through March 31, 2007, you will pay nothing to fill or refill your generic prescriptions at a participating Futurescripts retail pharmacy or through the mail order service. You will not need to fill out any reimbursement form. Your copayment amount will automatically be waived for all covered **generic** prescription drugs processed during the promotion.

If you use the mail order service for your generic maintenance drugs, depending on your current drug supply, you may be able to send in a prescription on January 1st, and then again, during the last week in March and have both copayments waived if the second prescription was able to be processed on or before March 31, 2007.

If you have any questions concerning this promotion or your health benefits, in general, please don't hesitate to call Ginny at the ACT Office at 215-568-4175.

PLEASE NOTE: THE "NO PAY COPAY" DOES NOT APPLY TO THE MEDICARE 65 PLANS, INCLUDING PERSONAL CHOICE 65, KEYSTONE 65, AND SECURITY 65.

IMPORTANT AND INFORMATIVE WEBSITES

Did you know that you can log on to the **Independence Blue Cross website at 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** and check the status of dental claims, find a provider, order a dental card, etc.

DAVIS VISION REMINDER: If you signed up for Family Coverage, the third and final installment of \$82.32 is due on February 19, 2007.

IF YOU HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED YOUR DAVIS VISION CARD, PLEASE CALL OR EMAIL THE ACT OFFICE AT nacst.nacst@verizon.net or 215-568-4175.

A BRIEF OUTLINE OF YOUR DENTAL BENEFITS

The dental plan provided by the Association of Catholic Teachers Health and Welfare Fund is a plan focused on preventive care. You are not required to contribute toward the cost of this benefit. It is completely separate from your medical health insurance. Therefore, you should have a separate dental card that says "UNITED CONCORDIA".

Your Maximum Benefit for the calendar year 2007 is \$1,000 per person. Therefore, as of January, you and each covered member of your family have \$1,000 to be used for covered services which include the following:

PREVENTIVE & DIAGNOSTIC CARE (Plan pays 100% of UCR Charges)

- Routine exam (once every 6 months)
- X-rays (subject to certain limits)
- Cleanings (once every 6 months)
- Flouride application (children under 19)
- Space maintainers (children under 19)

MINOR RESTORATIONS (Plan pays 100% of UCR Charges)

- Fillings (amalgam, silicate, acrylic, synthetic porcelain, composite filling restoration)
- Inpatient consultation

GENERAL SERVICES (Plan pays 100% of UCR charges)

- Repair of dentures (full or partial)
- Emergency treatment
- Simple extractions
- Endodontics
- Anesthesia

PERIODONTICS - subject to certain limits

(Plan pays 50% of UCR Charges)

- Diagnosis and treatment planning
- Nonsurgical therapy
- Surgical therapy
- Maintenance/preventive procedures

Please note that caps, crowns, braces, dentures, oral surgical services and any other services relating to the preparation or build-up for these services are not covered under the dental plan.

