



THE

The Newspaper of Local 1776
The Association of Catholic Teachers

SPIRIT
OF '76

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From The
President's Desk

CARDINAL RIGALI'S MASS

By now, I am sure that all teachers have been informed that Cardinal Justin Rigali will be celebrating a Mass for all secondary school teachers on Friday, February 2, 2007.

When I first heard that the Cardinal had asked to say Mass for his high school teachers, I was extremely pleased and more than a little surprised. In my 40+ years of Catholic school teaching, this is a first. Not that previous Archbishops haven't celebrated Masses for teachers, but these were always in conjunction with an archdiocesan in-service day or special event where we were lumped together with everyone else in the educational apostolate. This Mass is just for us, the high school teachers.

Many of you remember that the Association personally invited the former Archbishop year after year to meet with his teachers. To this invitation, we never even received a response. With this previous history as background, I am especially pleased, because Cardinal Rigali took the initiative and asked to say a Mass for his high school teachers.

I am encouraging everyone to come to the Mass on February 2nd to thank Cardinal Rigali for recognizing his high school teachers and thinking highly enough of them to set aside a day during Catholic Schools Week to honor them.

Rita

EXECUTIVE BOARD NEWS

Shortly before Christmas, Barbara Mills, Northwest Area Vice President, informed ACT that she was going to resign from the Executive Board. Barbara has been the Association's Area Vice President from the Northwest Area since that office was created in 1970. In addition, she served on ACT Negotiating Teams from the mid-70's to the mid-90's. Barbara's leaving makes me especially unhappy, because she is also a close, personal friend of over thirty years.

Barbara, on behalf of the Executive Board and all of the Senior Delegates and members you have served so well over four decades, we thank you for all you have contributed and we wish you all good things. You will be missed.

Rita

MONTHLY GROUP MEDICAL RATES FOR RETIREES AGE 65+

(Effective January 1, 2007)

SECURITY 65 PLAN C with Major Medical:

Employee Only:	\$490.62
Employee & Spouse:	\$981.24

PERSONAL CHOICE 65:

Employee Only:	\$395.10
Employee & Spouse:	\$790.20

KEYSTONE 65 HMO:

Employee Only:	\$475.72
Employee & Spouse:	\$951.44

Retired teachers who are enrolled in any of the above plans are automatically enrolled in Medicare Part D. You **DO NOT** need to enroll in an individual Medicare Part D plan, if you are enrolled in one of the above medical plans with the Archdiocese. In fact, if you do, you will lose your Archdiocese medical and prescription drug coverage because the Archdiocese plans are now considered Medicare Part D plans, and you may not be enrolled in two Medicare Part D plans at the same time.

National Association Of Catholic School Teachers

John J. Reilly Memorial Scholarship

The National Association of Catholic School Teachers established the John J. Reilly Memorial Scholarship to help defray the cost of a college education for outstanding children of NACST members. During their senior year of high school, \$4,000 awards are made to three students, \$1,000 in each of their four years of college study.

All sons, daughters and stepchildren of all active NACST members are eligible to participate in this scholarship provided they are in good standing in their senior year of high school. Application forms are available from the Senior Delegate of each high school. Deadline for submission of all applications is March 1st.

Archdiocesan High Schools

TAX INFORMATION

2006 DUES

\$400.00

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.)

The faculty thanks Rita for her school visit on January 8, 2007.

Discussions continue on the implementation of block scheduling for the 2007-2008 school year. Everyone is looking forward to an increased enrollment next year.

The administrative transition is going smoothly.

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

The following article appeared in the Profile section of the December 14, 2006 issue of *The Catholic Standard and Times*.

Treasured memories of Bishop McDevitt H.S.

By NADIA POZO
CS&T STAFF WRITER



CECELIA COYNE

Spending one's entire teaching career at one school is a rarity today, but it is exactly what Cecelia Coyne did.

She got a job teaching biology at Bishop McDevitt High School right out of college, and she went on to teach there for 39 years.

"I absolutely fell in love with the school, with the students, staff, and the administration," Coyne said. "It was a second family to me. It was the strong Catholic community that I found at McDevitt which was so exceptional."

Of course, that is what made it difficult for her to leave, when she finally chose to retire this year.

"I wanted to retire at the top of my game," Coyne said. "I wanted to leave when I knew I was still giving the kids the very best." That was so important to her because she felt a great responsibility towards her students.

"I leave my teaching career at McDevitt -- you, my students, were my motivators," Coyne told her former students after the McDevitt Thanksgiving liturgy, when she said her formal goodbye.

"You inspired me to want to be the best teacher that I could be," she said. "I did not want to let you down." For her, McDevitt has been a place where she has been able to live out

her faith freely, and encourage her students to do so as well.

"There was a consistent display of Catholicism, on a daily basis, at McDevitt -- from having the opportunity to attend Mass and faculty retreats to praying as a faith community," she said. "It helped me become a better Catholic. And it made me more aware, as a teacher, of the importance of teaching students not only the subject, but also reinforcing Catholic values where I could."

Coyne taught biology, physical science and environmental science in addition to serving as the girls basketball coach, the girl's athletic director, the student council moderator and the sponsor for state and national science competitions.

She always encouraged her students to think about their faith and worked to instilled virtue in them, whether in the classroom or on the field.

"Our mission statement here at McDevitt contains the word 'virtue,'" she reminded the students in her farewell. "Virtue may be defined as moral excellence -- honesty, integrity, and doing the right thing because it is the right thing. Strive your whole life to conform to a standard of right, and I believe that happiness will follow."

Virtue is what Coyne embodied in her own life, said McDevitt president Salvatore DiNenna.

"For the benefit of her students she continued her education while in service, earning a master's degree and participating in numerous workshops in her field, and in teaching methodologies," DiNenna said. "She traveled on an African safari and (took part in) Alaskan field studies so that her experiences could enrich the learning opportunities she offered her students."

And because Coyne played a key leadership role in the school's Middle States planning team, her work through that group will direct and improve the school for years to come, DiNenna added.

Her students remember Coyne most for giving "100 percent all day, every day."

Coyne feels blessed for her years of ministry, and although she misses her students already, she looks forward to a year of traveling and to enjoying her retirement, she said: "I leave McDevitt with such fond memories that I will treasure always."

CS&T staff writer Nadia Pozo can be reached at npozo@adphila.org or (215) 965-4614.

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.

OTHER IMPORTANT AND USEFUL INFORMATION

Please remember that **precertification is required** for the following diagnostic procedures: Operative and Diagnostic Endoscopies performed by Non-Preferred Providers, and the following diagnostic procedures performed by Preferred and Non-Preferred Providers: **MRI, MRA, CT/CTA scan, Nuclear Cardiology Imaging and PET Scans.** Failure to precertify Non-Preferred services will result in a 20% deduction in benefits. It is the subscriber's responsibility to precertify Non-Preferred Out-of-Network services. If you are seeking care from an Independence Blue Cross network physician, then it is the physician's responsibility to contact American Imaging Management, Inc. (AIM) prior to ordering these imaging services in an office, outpatient department of a hospital, or freestanding imaging center.

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. **Reminder:** As of January 1, 2007, you and each of your family members have \$1,000 in dental benefits to use for the 2007 calendar year.

*******IF YOU SIGNED UP FOR THE VOLUNTARY VISION PLAN AND HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED YOUR DAVIS VISION CARD, PLEASE CALL OR EMAIL THE ACT OFFICE AT 215-568-4175 OR nacst.nacst@verizon.net*******

ACT

**General Membership
Meeting**

Tuesday

March 27, 2007

4:00 P. M.

Holiday Inn

City Line Avenue

President's Report

New

Business

