



THE

The Newspaper of Local 1776
The Association of Catholic Teachers

SPIRIT OF '76

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From The President's Desk

A SUMMER OF WAITING

For many of our high school teachers here as well as elementary and secondary teachers in Catholic schools across Pennsylvania, it is a summer of waiting.

For our teachers affected by Constriction, the June 10th meeting left over 44 teachers without permanent jobs, by far the largest number we have experienced in a long time. More than likely, there will be little substantial movement until the middle of August, although some positions may open in late July with department head and administrative appointments. For now, the 37 laid-off teachers, as well as long-term subs, are able to apply for unemployment compensation.

Meanwhile, teachers in the Diocese of Scranton's regionalized elementary and high schools continue to fight to restore the union representation they had for more than 30 years. This right was most

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(President's Desk - from page 1)

FROM THE PRESIDENT. . .

recently championed by the U.S. Bishops on June 22, when the document "Respecting the Just Rights of Workers," was released. The Bishops, as part of a coalition with the AFL-CIO, SEIU and the Catholic Health Care Association, promulgated a blueprint for Catholic health care unions and employers on "how Catholic social teaching should shape the actions of unions, management and others in assuring workers a free and fair choice on questions of representation in the workplace." They wanted to ensure a process that is "free, fair and respectful."

Free, fair and respectful - three words completely foreign to union-busting bishop Joseph Martino, and why it is so important that House Bill 26 become law. It seems that Bishop Martino can totally violate Church teaching. It will be interesting to see if he flaunts the civil law as easily, although, he is supposed to answer to a higher authority.

At the present time, the legislators in Harrisburg are enmeshed in the budget battle; however, we are told that, very soon, the bill will be moved out of the Labor Relations Committee onto the House floor where, hopefully, it will be passed in early fall.

We will keep you updated on the progress of getting laid-off teachers back to work. We will also be letting you know when to contact your local representatives as House Bill 26 moves toward passage.

The ACT Office is open throughout July and August. Irene, Ginny and I are there to answer any questions or handle any problems. Give us a call if you need us.

I hope you are enjoying the summer break.



Teachers in the News

Ryan Responds, the brain child of Mary Edwards, teacher and Senior Delegate at Archbishop Ryan, was highlighted on Channel 6 (WPVI) - Action News on Thursday, June 4, 2009. The following is the contents of that broadcast.

LOCAL/STATE

Ryan Responds helps less fortunate

Thursday, June 04, 2009 10:45 PM

By Denise James

NORTHEAST PHILADELPHIA - June 4, 2009 (WPVI) -- Students from Archbishop Ryan are making what's old new again.

They are creating three ring binders from unused paper in notebooks that students discarded at the school year's end. The salvaged supplies are for poor children in Nicaragua.

"Somebody else is going to be able to use these and draw in these and learn. It's nice." 2009 graduate Jamie D'Amario said.

"This to us is waste paper, but to them it's like so much to cherish. I'm glad I'm able to give them that," student Joanna Shen said.

This group is called Ryan Responds. Notebooks, pencils and pens are the spoils of their war against waste. They encourage classmates to donate their notebooks, but most are harvested from garbage cans by selfless trash pickers.

"At one point I know, I was half way in the trash. I was lucky enough not to find anything that would deter me from keep going," environmental science teacher Bridget McLaughlin said.

The supplies are boxed and shipped to Quest for Peace, which ships them overseas.

Morality and social justice teacher Mary Edwards started this effort 15 years ago after spending 8 or 9 summers volunteering with poor children in Guatemala and Mexico.

"So I would be here seeing all the stuff that's being thrown out then leave for Mexico & Guatemala for the summer and see this extreme poverty and I couldn't not do it. I had to do something," Edwards said.

The group also collects used religion books. They cost \$35 new, but are sold for \$10 to students and the proceeds cover shipping costs for the paper project.

"I think it heightens consciousness and hopefully helps students and teachers alike to be more responsible stewards of creation, more responsible for the earth, more respectful of it and helping the poor," Edwards said.

There is a movement to turn academic trash into learning treasures.

The following article appeared in the June 18, 2009 issue of *The Catholic Standard and Times*. Congratulations, Sean!

Judge names new basketball coach

PHILADELPHIA — Father Judge High School Principal Dr. Kathleen Herpich, along with athletic director Ed Ryanitsky announced Sean Tait as new varsity basketball head coach June 1. Tait is a 1995 graduate of Judge.

A standout student-athlete at Judge, he was first team All-Cath-

olic, northern division MVP in 1995. Tait is a 1999 graduate of Cabrini College where he was a four-year varsity basketball letterman.

Tait served as freshman and junior varsity coach at Archbishop Wood High School from 2001-2008. During the 2008-2009 season, he was named interim coach of Wood's varsity team and finished with an overall record of 16-7, guiding Wood to its second playoff win in school history.

More Teachers in the News

The following *Letter to the Editor* and article appeared in the June 25, 2009 edition of *The Catholic Standard and Times*.

PRESIDENT OF TEACHER'S UNION COMMENTS ON O.L.H. SCHOOL CLOSING

To the Editor:

It saddened me to read that Our Lady of Hope School is closing (June 11 issue). I am happy to see that the Superintendent of Schools promises that the "Office of Catholic Education will do all that is possible to ensure a smooth transition that provides the best educational outcome for each family."

However, I am truly upset that nowhere in the article is there any mention of what the Archdiocese is doing to ensure a "smooth transition" for the Our Lady of Hope teachers who will no longer have jobs.

I hope that the schools that will be welcoming the students from the closed school will be as welcoming to the Catholic school teachers displaced by this unhappy event.

*Rita C. Schwartz
Philadelphia*

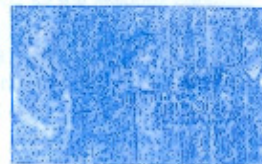
The writer is president of Local 1776 Association of Catholic Teachers.

Lansdale Catholic teachers honored with creative arts award

LANSDALE — Eileen T. Hildenbrand and Beth Burgoon, teachers at Lansdale Catholic High School, were honored by the Mordechai Anielewicz Creative Arts Competition. They received the Samuel Pelta Holocaust Endowment Award which is cosponsored by the Pennsylvania Holocaust Education Council and the competition. The award ceremony was held at Moore College of Art and Design.

As part of the award, Lansdale Catholic High School received the Clara Isaacman Memorial Trunk of Holocaust materials which will be used to enrich instruction. The award recognized the creative work of the seniors in Burgoon's world literature classes and Hildenbrand's ninth grade honors English classes.

Burgoon's classes worked collaboratively to create journals that captured the thoughts and feelings of individuals during the Holocaust. The ninth-graders created commemorative stamps to honor those lost in the Holocaust. The students' work is currently exhibited at the college.



Beth Burgoon, Maureen Pelta, chair of the Mordechai Anielewicz Creative Arts Competition, and Eileen T. Hildenbrand.

The following *Teacher Spotlight* can be found on the Office of Catholic Education's web site.

Teacher Spotlight: Melissa Costello, Father Judge High School

Mrs. Melissa Costello always dreamed she'd be a teacher.

For the past six years, she's been living her dream teaching Algebra 1 and Geometry to 9th and 11th grade students at Father Judge High School. Prior to joining the Father Judge faculty, Mrs. Costello got her start in the teaching profession at Saint Marie Givetti High School.

Mrs. Costello believes students should have fun while they learn. "We do fun things to prepare for an upcoming test -- like playing a game of Quizno," says Costello.

Math isn't Mrs. Costello's only love! She can be found on weeknights at the Drexelburg Rac Center where she teaches dance classes. When she is not teaching, Mrs. Costello enjoys playing softball, attending Father Judge football games and choreographing Pridesburg's annual variety show, a position she has held for eight years.



ADMINISTRATIVE OPENINGS

The following openings are to be posted on
Thursday, July 9, 2009 to Thursday, July 23, 2009.

**Assistant Principal for Academic Affairs - Bonner-Prendergast
Assistant Principal for Academic Affairs - North Catholic**

All interested and qualified faculty members are invited to apply. Candidates should possess the following:

1. A minimum of five (5) years of teaching and/or administrative experience in the Secondary School System.
2. A Master's Degree or enrollment in a Master's Degree program with a minimum of six (6) credits earned in the Master's Degree program at the time of application.

The Office of Catholic Education may waive qualifications relating to experience and Master's Degree if such a waiver is warranted by other considerations.

Applications for the positions shall be reviewed by the Office of Catholic Education. Interviews will be granted to those who pass the initial screening of applicants.

Applications should include a full resume, a letter of recommendation from your principal and an updated letter of recommendation from your pastor.

All applications are to be forwarded to Mrs. Theresa Ryan-Szott, Director of Secondary Personnel, Office of Catholic Education, 222 North 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103 on or before Thursday, July 23, 2009.

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

The following opening is to be posted on
Thursday, July 9, 2009 to Thursday, July 23, 2009.

NORTHEAST CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL: Athletic Director

All interested teachers and other persons may apply.

All applications must be received on or before Thursday, July 23, 2009. Applicants should contact Rev. Nicholas Waseline, OSFS, Principal, Northeast Catholic High School, 1842 E. Torresdale Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19124.

DEPARTMENT HEAD OPENINGS

The following openings are to be posted on Thursday, July 9, 2009 to Thursday, July 23, 2009.

Business - Lansdale Catholic
Business - Archbishop Wood
English - Sts. Neumann & Goretti
English - Roman Catholic
English - Bishop Shanahan
Fine Arts - John W. Hallahan
Fine Arts - North Catholic
Fine Arts - Bishop Shanahan
Fine Arts - Archbishop Wood
Guidance - St. Pius X
Guidance - Bishop Shanahan
Guidance - West Catholic
Math - Sts. Neumann & Goretti
Math - Roman Catholic
Science - Father Judge
Science - North Catholic
Theology - St. Hubert
Theology - Bishop Shanahan
World Language - Cardinal Dougherty

All interested and qualified teachers may apply.

1. The teacher must have at least five (5) years teaching; three (3) years must be on the secondary level in the subject area.
2. The teacher must have a Master's Degree in the subject area or a Master's Degree in Education with a major concentration in the subject area or the teacher must be enrolled in one of the foregoing Master's Programs with at least six (6) graduate credits at the time of application with the requirement that at least six (6) additional graduate credits toward the Master's Degree will be obtained each year.

All applications must be received on or before Thursday, July 23, 2009.

Applicants should write to Mrs. Theresa Rynn-Szort, Director of Secondary Personnel, Office of Catholic Education, 222 North 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103 giving a brief resume of their educational background. The department head shall be selected within twenty (20) days after the closing date of the submission of applications.

*****DEPARTMENT HEAD GUIDELINES ARTICLE VI, SECTION b – any teacher interested in the position of "Acting Department Head", even though he or she is not qualified under the above-mentioned qualifications and requirements for Department Heads, should indicate his or her interest in the position at the time of the original posting of the opening.**

ADDITIONAL DEPARTMENT HEAD OPENINGS

(same qualifications/application guidelines listed on page 6)

English - John W. Hallahan

(Apply by Thursday, July 23, 2009)

COACHING OPENINGS

**The following openings are to be posted on
Thursday, July 9, 2009 to Tuesday, July 28, 2009.**

CONWELL EGAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL: Baseball

All interested teachers and other persons may apply. All applications must be received on or before Tuesday, July 28, 2009. Applicants should contact Mrs. Margaret Blanco, Principal, Conwell-Egan Catholic High School, 611 Wistar Road, Fairless Hills, PA 19030.

CARDINAL DOUGHERTY HIGH SCHOOL: Boys' Lacrosse

All interested teachers and other persons may apply. All applications must be received on or before Tuesday, July 28, 2009. Applicants should contact Dr. Thomas Rooney, Principal, Cardinal Dougherty High School, 6301 N. Second Street, Philadelphia, PA 19120.

CARDINAL DOUGHERTY HIGH SCHOOL: Cross Country/Indoor Track

All interested teachers and other persons may apply. All applications must be received on or before Tuesday, July 28, 2009. Applicants should contact Dr. Thomas Rooney, Principal, Cardinal Dougherty High School, 6301 N. Second Street, Philadelphia, PA 19120.

FATHER JUDGE HIGH SCHOOL: Indoor/Outdoor Track

All interested teachers and other persons may apply. All applications must be received on or before Tuesday, July 28, 2009. Applicants should contact Dr. Kathleen Herpich, Principal, Father Judge High School, 3301 Solly Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19136.

STS. JOHN NEUMANN & MARIA GORETTI HIGH SCHOOL: Head Football Coach

All interested teachers and other persons may apply. All applications must be received on or before Tuesday, July 28, 2009. Applicants should contact Mrs. Patricia Sticco, Principal, Sts. John Neumann & Maria Goretti High School, 1735 South Tenth Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148.

BISHOP SHANAHAN HIGH SCHOOL: Girls' Tennis, Boys' Varsity Baseball,

Boys' Varsity Lacrosse All interested teachers and other persons may apply. All applications must be received on or before Tuesday, July 28, 2009. Applicants should contact Mr. Ted Torrance, Athletic Director, Bishop Shanahan High School 220 Woodbine Road, Downingtown, PA 19335.

