



THE

The Newspaper of Local 1776
The Association of Catholic Teachers

SPIRIT OF '76

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From The President's Desk

THE "CLOSE" OF THE SCHOOL YEAR

As we near the end of this most challenging of school years, it is important to look at all that has happened and try to make sense of the many conflicting events. In my State of the Union presentation at our recent General Membership Meeting, I referred to the year as schizophrenic.

While we excitedly watched the progress of construction at the new Pope John Paul II High School in Royersford which is scheduled to open in September, 2010, we also were hit with the news that four of our long-established schools would be closing in June, 2010. North Catholic and Cardinal Dougherty would be gone forever, while Kennedy-Kenrick and Pius X would blend faculties and student bodies to become Pope John Paul II.

The four closing schools have been a vital part of the history of the Association of Catholic Teachers. In 1965, a teacher from Cardinal Dougherty came to my school, St. Hubert's, to talk with our teachers about a new Association that was forming. He asked that we send someone to a meeting to work on the details (and, as they say, the rest is history). Throughout the Association's early years, the House of Delegates held many a rabble-rousing meeting in the Dougherty Cafeteria.

North Catholic has always been a strong union school. In fact, in the Association's early years, North produced the first faculty sit-in which took place to express displeasure at the school administration's interpretation of fair and equitable treatment.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

FROM THE PRESIDENT. . .

The first elected President of the Association was John Murray, a teacher at Bishop Kenrick. In 1968, John Reilly, also a Bishop Kenrick teacher, moved from ACT Vice President to become ACT's third elected President and served until 1984 (John was also founding President of the National Association of Catholic School Teachers).

Pius, being in the farthest reaches of the Archdiocese, joined in the union activity a little late, but once in, was always highly visible.

In regard to Pope John Paul II High School, the Association made very sure during the 2008 Negotiations that what was, at that time, called "New High School, Royersford, PA," would be included as a Union school under the Labor-Management Agreement.

Irene and I recently visited the four closing schools and sat through all lunch periods to answer teachers' questions and listen to their concerns about their work lives next year. It was great to be with the teachers, but there was an overall sadness given that the closings were just a few weeks away.

The closings, coupled with teacher cuts in almost every other school, have created a Constriction with the largest numbers we have seen in 25 years. Over 100 teachers remain on the list, including 6 from the yet-to-open Pope John Paul II and several teachers who were laid off last school year and have yet to obtain permanent positions.

Because of such a large constriction of teachers, departments are, in some instances, being decimated. Core curriculum is becoming the staple. Electives in English, Social Studies, Math and Science become harder and harder to maintain, while Business, World Language, Physical Education/ Health and Fine Arts are being slashed. Through the constricting of librarians, school libraries no longer provide learning options for our students. Hardly the components of a 21st Century education.

It is extremely difficult to put a happy face on much of what this school year has brought. The last few weeks of the school year won't bring many smiles either.

Nevertheless, while we grieve the loss of Cardinal Dougherty, North Catholic, Kennedy-Kenrick and Pius X and worry about the effects that Constriction will have on our teachers as well as on the academic excellence of our schools, we need to look ahead. We, as both teachers and union members, need to do all that we can to ensure that the remaining 17 high schools endure as strong and viable places of education throughout the 21st Century.



The Cardinal Dougherty Legacy

On September 5, 1956, Cardinal Dougherty High School opened its doors to 2,667 freshmen and sophomores. They began a journey that would be taken by over 40,000 graduates in the next 54 years. Today we can look back with great pride at the many accomplishments and achievements that our students and graduates have achieved. Our successes in the classroom, our victories in the athletic arena, our innovative programs, our commitment to community projects, and our strong spirit and pride have helped to establish our reputation locally, nationally and even internationally.

In our early years we were the Girls' Side Boys' Side with the wall keeping us apart. When the wall finally came down in 1970, there was much joy, but the school still remained co-institutional. It wasn't until 1983 that CD went from co-institutional to co-educational. In 1988 select seniors had the opportunity to participate in the Diocesan Scholars Program. In 1994 we became the first Archdiocesan school to offer Intensive Scheduling. In 1998 we established the Medical Careers Health Academy and in 2001 the Catholic School Teachers Academy was created. We never hesitated to try something new if we thought that it would benefit the CD community.

Over the years there were many accolades for our sports teams. The tradition of excellence in sports continued through the years with many Catholic League and City Championships. Whether we earned a victory or suffered a loss, our athletes always displayed good sportsmanship, loyalty and a real commitment as a Cardinal.

Our organizations and clubs have given all of our students an opportunity to use their talents, demonstrate their dedication and leadership, develop friendships, and create lasting memories. In 1998 CD also became the home for Our Lady of Confidence, a school for Special Education students who are cognitively challenged. From their first days with us, they became part of our CD family. For many of our involved students CD became a home away from home, and we would often have to beg the students to go home.

Today life at CD is very different from those early days. It is a reality that the enrollment has dropped, our sports teams at times struggle, and our World Champion Band is no longer, but the diversity and the family feeling that fill the halls and the classrooms cannot be found anywhere else. Inside our gates we have a replica of the world that our students are prepared to face and challenge. When we first received the news that CD would close, the students' initial concerns were for Our Lady of Confidence students, the Chuck Cassidy Memorial, the teachers, and then finally themselves. CD is their family.

The Cardinal Dougherty of today is built on the legacy of yesterday, and we are proud to boast our many success stories--congressmen, lawyers, judges, CEOs, priests, religious, nurses, doctors, professional athletes, teachers, police fire fighters, trades people, mother, and fathers. We may be closing our doors, but the values, rituals, spirit and pride will always live on through our involvement, example, traditions, and memories. Our CD identity has been etched in our hearts, will be exemplified in our actions, and will remain a part of who we are. We will always **"Hail Cardinal Dougherty High"** "for once a Cardinal always a Cardinal."



**Harry Ewald
Charlotte Drummond
Cardinal Dougherty**



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 Ms. Schwartz,

I recently received your letter informing me of the award I have been granted. I would like to thank you and the Association of Catholic Teachers for the \$500 scholarship for my sophomore year at Archbishop Carroll. It is an honor to receive this award from the teachers represented by the Association of Catholic Teachers. Since first grade, I have benefitted from the fine teaching of Catholic School teachers. I appreciate their hard work and sacrifice and consider myself blessed to be educated by such a group.

Gratefully,
Faith Harrison
Class of 2013
Abp. Carroll

Association of Catholic Teachers,

Thank you for the scholarship; it was a pleasant surprise. I am very grateful and will continue to strive to do my best.

Sincerely,
Jessica Conway
Saint Hubert H. S.

Dear Ms. Schwartz,

I am writing to thank you for the scholarship that the Association of Catholic Teachers awarded me. I apologize for not contacting you sooner. I am extremely pleased and proud to receive a scholarship from this association. Thank you again!

Sincerely yours,
Kaitlyn Anticoli
Bishop McDevitt H. S.

Dear Ms. Schwartz and fellow teachers,

Thank you so very much for your kindness.

My husband, Larry, and I really appreciate the \$500.00 towards Megan's tuition at Little Flower High School.

God Bless!
Eileen Himes

Dear Ms. Schwartz,

It was very thoughtful of you!

I wanted to express my gratitude to you for the \$500 in tuition. I'm glad to see my hard work is paying off and this makes me want to try to the best of my ability. Thanks again and God Bless You.

Megan Himes
Little Flower H. S.

The Spirit of Faith, Hope and Love

It was over a half century ago that the Archdiocese built a school at 250 E. Johnson Highway, Norristown, PA and they called it Bishop Kenrick Catholic High School. In 1993, because of declining enrollment, the school merged with Archbishop Kennedy High School, forming Kennedy-Kenrick Catholic High School.

Sounds like the beginning of any other Catholic high school, but it was not the same here at K-K. The foundation of K-K is built on bricks and mortar, but the spirit in this school is built on faith, hope and love. The students are the most friendly, happy, warm, caring, helpful and endearing young people in the Diocese as well as the tri-county area. They always make us proud. As soon as anyone --students, faculty, staff and visitors enter the front door of Kennedy-Kenrick, an atmosphere of FAMILY can be felt. Kennedy-Kenrick is a family, and this family will surely be missed. The uniqueness of our school was recognized in 2009 when Kennedy-Kenrick Catholic High School was voted the "Best Private School in Montgomery County."



We had our collegiate scholars, academic and athletic grants, over-the-top dinner theaters and spring musicals, clubs--all of the activities that one would expect, especially the fabulous homecoming assemblies, the homecoming parade from the school down to Roosevelt Field, the annual fun day carnival, and the annual faculty-student volleyball game during Catholic Schools Week--just to name a few. Also, I cannot forget Konnections, one of the students' favorites. Kennedy-Kenrick was the first school in the Archdiocese to combine two co-ed schools and was also the first school to have an Office of Student Life. There are so many memories that it is hard to remember or even list all of them.

Well, the end is coming very, very soon. Our hope for our young people as the seniors go on to higher education, jobs, and making their own way in life is that we, the adults, here at K-K continue to love and support them. We are very proud of them. The underclassmen will carry this spirit and pride to their new schools. As Josh Billings, well-known 19th century humorist, said, "Much to do, Much to love and Much to hope for."

Soon our mascot, the "Wolverine", will be no more. But, we will always hold dear in our hearts the "Wolverine Pride." May God bless all who traveled through these hallowed halls. May our school pride endure throughout our lives.

**Sandy Nadwodny
AngE Holbrook
Kennedy-Kenrick**

Lancer's Local

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

On April 16, 2010, Rita C. Schwartz, President, on behalf of the Association of Catholic Teachers, presented Rosemary O'Connor with a plaque in recognition of Rosemary's 25 years of service to the students at Holy Cross High School in the Diocese of Trenton.



Teachers in the News

Congratulations to Crew Coach, Phil Roche, Father Judge High School, who received the prestigious Coach of the Year Award.



Congratulations to Charlie Huckel '66, Father Judge High School, who was honored at the School's Hall of Fame Dinner for his 20 years of work with the Crusader Campaign.



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Patty teaches at John W. Hallahan High School.

Little Diamond out on the Western Frontier!

I wonder how many times Rita has heard when talking about bumping or assignment of position, "Rita, I'll go anywhere except Pottstown." What a shame. These people missed out on a chance at working at the "little diamond out on the western frontier."

Throughout its all too brief history, Pius has been a place of great learning, great traditions and great friendships. Everyone who has walked these halls is welcomed to the family. They have no problems calling part of the building the new wing, even though it was built in 1970. Students have come to love playing a game called Flickerball. If you are asking what is Flickerball, you never went to Pius. Students looked forward to work at Field Day as much as they looked forward to going to it as grade school students. Students came out in great numbers on a day off from school to help out at Speical Field Day. Pius sports teams, usually the smallest in whatever league they were playing in, have won numerous league, district, and even state championships. The gym, Father Doyne Hall, besides being the home to the boys and girls basketball teams was also at times a church or a theater.

Pius was a place where some people came to work and never left, or at least it seemed so. It wasn't unusual for sons and daughters to be taught by some of the same teachers and their moms and dads, and believe it or not the queue for some students started with grandparents. When a teacher has taught three generations of the same family, he has been there a long time.

The education Pius students received was second to none. Some of the best teachers in the entire system have walked these halls.

I consider myself very lucky that when I was constricted Rita told me, "There is an opening for you in Pottstown."

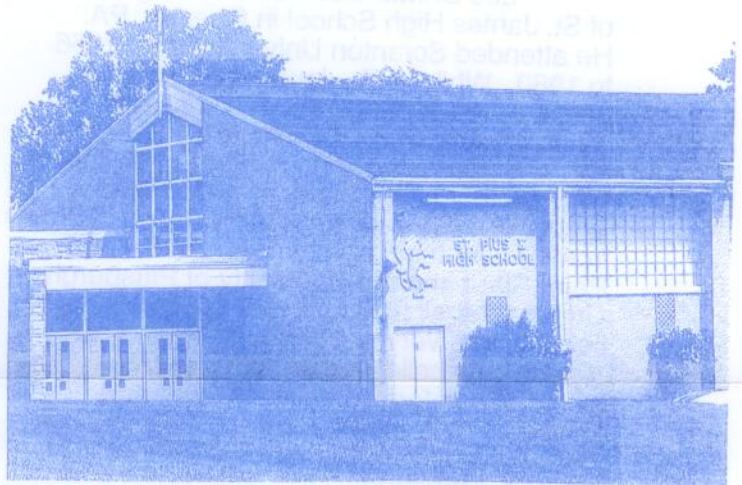
I leave you with the words of Ray Davies of The Kinks.

*Thank you for the days,
Those endless days, those sacred days you gave me.
I'm thinking of the days,
I won't forget a single day, believe me.*

*I bless the light,
I bless the light that lights on you, believe me.
And though you're gone,
You're with me every single day, believe me.*

Winged Lions Forever!

Rob Mattaliano
Saint Pius X



Great Teacher and Coach

Leo Broadhurst was a 1956 graduate of St. James High School in Chester, PA. He attended Scranton University from 1956 to 1960. While at St. James and Scranton, Leo excelled in the game of football. At St. James, he was All-Catholic and All-Delco, and at Scranton he was named to the College All State team three times as a center and linebacker. He was competing against players from all over the State, including those from Penn State and the University of Pittsburgh. On the football field Leo was special; off the field he was very special.

After college, Leo taught and coached the freshmen football team at St. James. In 1962, he left St. James to become a teacher and head coach at Loyola High School in Towson, Maryland.



In 1965, he left Loyola to become a teacher and head coach at Cardinal O'Hara High School. For the next 43 years, Leo taught Social Studies, coached and, as the Athletic Director, administered to the young men and women that attended Cardinal O'Hara.

On Saturday, March 27th, Leo passed away.

Leo will be remembered as a great teacher and coach who taught on and off the field how to be a good human being. He was a loving and proud father to his four children and to his grandchildren, as well as a loving and devoted husband to his wife, Kathleen. Leo will be missed; his goodness will be missed even more.

**George Stratts, Principal
Cardinal O'Hara High School**

Teachers in the News

Congratulations to Dave Schafer, St. Hubert High School, who was named *The Northeast Times* Softball Coach of the Year.



Congratulations to Joe Muto, Archbishop Ryan High School, who walked 72 miles (from his home in Northeast Philadelphia to Ventnor) to support St. Baldrick's, an organization that raises money for childhood cancer research.

Way to go, Joe!





In Loving Memory of
Richard V. Kelly
 October 26, 1944
 April 5, 2010

The Archbishop Wood community contributed to the following article which appeared in the *Doylestown Intelligencer*.

It is being reprinted with the permission of Drew Markol.

Wood says goodbye to Kelly

Numerous students and teachers turned out to pay last respects to the popular teacher and former athletic director.

BY DREW MARKOL
 STAFF WRITER

The young and old turned out to pay tribute to Rich Kelly on Thursday, and that was a surprise to no one.

"The kids just loved him, and the response of the students who all came out for his funeral mass just showed you how much love they had for the man," Archbishop Wood athletic director Joe Sette said.

"The school was closed (Thursday) because all of the faculty and staff wanted to go and so did the students. Rich touched so many lives and was just an institution at the school."

Kelly, 65, died Monday after a short illness. He taught at Archbishop Wood for 39 years and was the school's athletic director for much of the

1970s into the 1980s. He is survived by two sons and a daughter and three grandchildren.

"He was just a special individual," said former Wood football coach Joe Franchella, a lifelong friend. "Rich was genuine and a friend of mine since I was 17. He will be missed by so many."

Former Wood wrestling coach and AD Steve Peters was also a lifelong friend. He, Kelly, Franchella and former Wood head football coach Skip Duffy all met as undergrads at Delaware Valley College.

"My first day at Delaware Valley, I met Rich and we were friends for life," said Peters, a science teacher at the school. "He was a guy who really cared about people and he really cared about the kids."

"And I was so proud of our kids today. They were hurting like all of us were, but they wanted to be there. And the amount of alumni (at the funeral) was just phenomenal. That shows a lot about how much he was loved."

Kelly taught physical education and drivers' education

at Wood and also coached the offensive line for Franchella.

"Rich probably taught drivers' ed to every sibling of every teacher at Wood," Sette said. "He was just a great resource. Since I've taken over (as AD) I would always be picking Rich's brain."

"He had a lot of experience and contacts around the (Philadelphia Catholic) League. I would always ask him what he thought and which direction he would go."

Peters, who had hip replacement surgery in early March and hadn't been back at school, returned Tuesday to try to honor Kelly's memory.

"I told my wife and kids I had to go back," Peters said. "Everyone was kind of hanging their heads because they all cared so much about Rich."

"We're going to miss him a whole lot. But we're never going to forget him."

Drew Markol can be reached at
 215-345-3141 or
 dmarkol@phillyburbs.com.

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

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.

REMINDERS

ACT OFFICE HOURS -- During the summer, the Office will be open between the hours of 9:30 AM and 3:30 PM.

ADDRESS CHANGES -- If you are in the process of moving or have already moved to a new address, don't forget to call the ACT Office with your new address and phone number. It is extremely important that we have your current address so we can update your records and keep you informed of openings as they occur.

DENTAL AND VISION CARDS -- If you are in need of additional dental and/or vision cards, please call the ACT Office at 215-568-4175 or e-mail your request to nacst.nacst@verizon.net.

MEDICAL CARDS -- If you are in need of additional medical cards, please call the Office of Catholic Education at 215-587-3689.

RETIREMENT INFORMATION -- The ACT Office has put together some medical information (rates, comparison sheets and contract provisions) for teachers who are considering retirement in the near future. If you are considering an early retirement or if you will be reaching the age for normal retirement, call the ACT Office at 215-568-4175 for your retirement packet. You may also email your request to nacst.nacst@verizon.net.