



# THE

The Newspaper of Local 1776  
The Association of Catholic Teachers

# SPIRIT '76 OF '76

1700 SANSOM STREET • SUITE 903 • PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103 • 215-568-4175 • VOLUME XXX

No. 8 - Fax 215-568-8270 - e-mail (nacst.nacst@verizon.net) - web site (www.act1776.com) - July 2010



From The  
President's Desk

## CONSTRUCTION: A LONG, HOT SUMMER

In my newsletter article this time last year, I described the results of the Constriction meeting as "the largest number we have experienced in a long time." The 2009 meeting left 44 teachers without permanent positions and 37 with no job at all. As upsetting as these numbers were, they look good when compared with this year's statistics.

Constriction 2010 - For the first time in almost 20 years, schools were closing - not merging, restructuring or consolidating - they were closing. The entire lay faculties of two of the closing schools, North Catholic and Cardinal Dougherty, were to attend the Constriction meeting to select their new positions.

There were 184 teachers on this year's List, which computes as 20% of our teaching force. These included actual constrictees as well as those teachers with low system seniority who were bumped to provide positions. Auditorium A & B at the Archdiocesan building could not hold more than 160 people. Therefore, a larger space was needed for the meeting. The System was able to use Liberty Ballroom A at the Sheraton Hotel directly across the street.

On June 16, 2010, when the meeting ended, 81 teachers left without permanent positions. The breakdown is as follows:

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

**FROM THE PRESIDENT. . .**

15 English, 15 Social Studies, 9 Theology, 9 Business, 9 Math,  
8 Science, 6 Guidance, 4 Health/Physical Education, 4 Fine Arts  
and 2 World Language.

Many of the teachers who selected permanent positions filled out Hardship Forms in the hope that a job closer to home would open between the meeting and the close of the first semester of the 2010-2011 school year. Those teachers who are without a position at the present time are able to apply for Unemployment Compensation benefits.

Thus far, there has been very little movement. Hopefully, as the summer progresses, enrollment figures will improve. This will give schools some of their constricted positions back and get more teachers back to work.

If there are any questions about Constriction or potential openings, please contact the ACT Office.

**GOOD LUCK AND GOD SPEED,  
BISHOP MC FADDEN**

On June 22nd, the announcement came from the Vatican that Pope Benedict XVI had appointed Bishop Joseph McFadden the Ordinary of Harrisburg. He will be installed on August 18th. In a letter to the Bishop-elect, I wrote "While the faithful of Harrisburg are extremely fortunate in the Pope's selection of their tenth bishop, we, here at home in Philadelphia, are very unhappy to be losing you."

Bishop McFadden began his career in 1969 as a lay teacher at West Catholic Boys. He was also a member of the Association of Catholic Teachers and a delegate in the Association's House of Delegates. Throughout his years as secretary to Cardinal Krol, first President of Cardinal O'Hara High School, pastor of St. Joseph's in Downingtown and Auxiliary Bishop assigned to Catholic education, he has always been staunchly committed to our schools and, most especially, to our teachers. He has been a true friend and champion.

We congratulate him on an honor which is certainly well-deserved. We wish him good luck and God speed in his new assignment. He will, certainly, be missed.





## Gone Too Soon

For most, it would be difficult to measure the effect a person can have on a community in one short year, but for Eric Rosenberger, it was easy and substantial. Always the first to arrive, Eric's day started around 6:15 A. M. when he would open the Information Center for students who also arrived early. Eric quickly earned the respect of the students who saw a genuine teacher whose main desire was to assist them in the learning process.

As a co-worker, Eric instantly became a part of the Roman family. His unassuming nature and friendly smile endeared him to his new colleagues. Although eager to learn new technologies and extremely capable in his new role, Eric was often apologetic when asking a question of the staff. For those of us who worked with Eric, apologies were never necessary because Eric was the type of person who was a pleasure to be around.

As much as Eric enjoyed being at Roman, his true passion was indeed his family. Full of constant stories of the exploits of his son, Chase, Eric would beam with pride as he imparted to us the details of little league, Phillies games, and pre-school performances. Eric was truly a role model of what a good dad should be like. He was an inspiration to us all.

Although his time at Roman was short, his impact on the entire Roman family was immense. His influence and generosity will be felt in all of our hearts for many years to come.



*John Pensabene, Roman Catholic*

\*\*\*\*\*

The past school year brought Eric not only to Roman but to third period lunch. During this lunch period, I was fortunate enough to get to know him. Eric was a real trooper. Not only did he successfully navigate each class period with a library full of boys, but he also successfully navigated our "rowdy" lunch table. He enjoyed the laughter and stories, so much so that he brought them home to his wife, Kate. As he enjoyed our stories, we too enjoyed his. Each day, he brought a new story about his son, Chase. Those stories were always great and each was prefaced with the word "Daddy" as Eric made a face in imitation of his son. Eric's pride in and love for Chase was very evident. It was obvious that he was a good husband and father. He was quiet and unassuming but with keen insights. His was a life that ended too quickly. We missed him at our table.

*Joe Randzo, Roman Catholic*

\*\*\*\*\*

The untimely death of Eric Rosenberger sent all of us at Neumann-Goretti reeling. Eric had been visiting our school just one week before his death. His plan was to organize our summer remediation program as he had done the previous summer. And, as usual, our conversation settled into his favorite topic, Chase, his son. Eric was above all else, a father. We all know and love Chase Rosenberger. We literally watched him grow from birth. In fact one of the last things we talked about was Eric's plan to secure a good education for Chase.

Eric began his career as a librarian at St. Maria Goretti High School in September of 2001. He stayed with us through the merger and remained a loyal and supportive member of our new family until June of 2009. During his years at Neumann-Goretti, Eric proved himself to be willing to do whatever was asked of him. Eric was extremely intelligent yet very unassuming.

*Patricia Sticco*

*Principal, Neumann-Goretti*



## More 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 Diocesan high school and at Holy Cross 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 want to thank you and the Association of Catholic Teachers for the scholarship you awarded me. It's great to see that my work at school is being recognized. The scholarship will go a long way to help my family pay for the Holy Cross tuition. I really appreciate your generosity.

Sincerely,  
Margaret Buck

Dear Association of Catholic Teachers,

I would like to give my sincere thanks to the Association of Catholic Teachers for awarding me a \$500 scholarship. Although I did not have any scholarships going into Roman, I tried my hardest in all of my classes and managed to rank 9th by mid-year. I was unaware that scholarships were awarded to freshmen which makes this even more of an honor to have receive a scholarship.

The principal and my parents were very happy, and told me to keep up the good work. This award will definitely make it easier for my parents financially towards next year's tuition, for that I am also grateful.

Once again, thank you (the Association of Catholic Teachers) for giving me this scholarship towards my tuition. I now believe that hard work really does pay off.

Sincerely,  
Patrick Prendergast  
Roman Catholic H. S. '13

Dear Rita Schwartz,

Thank you for the \$500.00 scholarship awarded to me. My family and I appreciate the recognition of my hard work and efforts. We are all full of pride and excitement to receive this academic distinction. I hope to continue on with as much success in my future years at Father Judge High School.

The Benedykciuk family is very grateful to the Association of Catholic Teachers. I will keep up the hard work and will not let go of my determination.

Sincerely,  
Michael E. Benedykciuk

Dear Ms. Rita C. Schwartz,

Thank you for the generous scholarship that I will receive for my sophomore year. My parents make many sacrifices to send me to Archbishop Prendergast. I am enjoying my experience at a Catholic high school. I am honored to have been acknowledged for my hard work this year. Having the opportunity to learn in a faith-filled environment is a true blessing. I would like to thank all the teachers represented by the Association of Catholic Teachers for the scholarship.

Sincerely,  
Lea Millio



## DEPARTMENT HEAD OPENINGS

The following openings are to be posted on  
Friday, July 9, 2010 to Friday, July 23, 2010.

Business - J. W. Hallahan  
Business - Father Judge  
Business - Lansdale Catholic  
Business - Pope John Paul II  
Business - Roman Catholic  
English - Lansdale Catholic  
Family & Consumer Sciences - Sts. Neumann & Goretti  
Fine Arts - Msgr. Bonner - Abp. Prendergast  
Fine Arts - St. Hubert  
Guidance - West Catholic  
Guidance - Little Flower  
Guidance - Sts. John Neumann & Maria Goretti  
Guidance - Pope John Paul II  
Health & P.E. - Father Judge  
Health & P.E. - St. Hubert  
Health & P.E. - Bishop Shanahan  
Mathematics - Conwell-Egan  
Mathematics - J. W. Hallahan  
Mathematics - St. Hubert  
Mathematics - Lansdale Catholic  
Science - Archbishop Ryan  
Social Studies - Msgr. Bonner - Abp. Prendergast  
Social Studies - J. W. Hallahan  
Social Studies - Lansdale Catholic  
Social Studies - Pope John Paul II  
Social Studies - Roman Catholic  
Theology - J. W. Hallahan  
Theology - Roman Catholic  
Theology - West Catholic  
World Languages - Msgr. Bonner - Abp. Prendergast  
World Languages - Lansdale Catholic  
World Languages - Sts. John Neumann-Maria Goretti  
World Languages - Archbishop Ryan  
World Languages - Bishop Shanahan  
World Languages - West Catholic

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.

(See application instructions continued on back)

**Department Head Application Instructions Continued .....**

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 Friday, July 23, 2010.**

Applicants should write to Mrs. Theresa Ryan-Szott, Director of Secondary Personnel, Office of Catholic Education, 222 North 17<sup>th</sup> 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.**

\*\*\*\*\*

## **ATHLETIC DIRECTOR**

**The following opening is to be posted on  
Friday, July 9, 2010 to Friday, July 28, 2010.**

**CONWELL-EGAN HIGH SCHOOL:** Athletic Director  
All interested teachers and other persons may apply. All applications must be received on or before Wednesday, July 28, 2010. Apply to Mrs. Margaret Blanco, Principal, Conwell-Egan High School, 611 Wistar Road, Fairless Hills, PA 19030.

## COACHING OPENINGS

**The following openings are to be posted on  
Friday, July 9, 2010 to Wednesday, July 28, 2010.**

**Conwell-Egan High School:** Girls' Basketball. All applications should be received on or before Wednesday, July 28, 2010. Applicants should contact: Mrs. Margaret Blanco, Principal, Conwell Egan High School 611 Wistar Road, Fairless Hills, PA 19030.

**Father Judge High School:** Lacrosse. All Applications should be received on or before Wednesday, July 28, 2010. Applicants should contact: Dr. Kathleen Herpich, Principal, Father Judge High School, 3301 Solly Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19136.

**Lansdale Catholic High School:** Bowling, Boys' Lacrosse. All applications should be received on or before Wednesday, July 28, 2010. Applicants should contact: Mr. Timothy Quinn, Principal, Lansdale Catholic High School, 700 Lansdale Avenue, Lansdale, PA 19446.

**Little Flower High School:** Varsity Lacrosse. All applications should be received on or before Wednesday, July 28, 2010. Applicants should contact: Sr. Kathleen Klarich, RSM, Principal, Little Flower High School, 1000 W. Lycoming Street, Philadelphia, PA 19140.

**Sts. John Neuman & Maria Goretti High School:** Head Coach Volleyball. All applications should be received on or before Wednesday, July 28, 2010. Applicants should contact: Mrs. Patricia Sticco, Principal, Sts. John Neumann & Maria Goretti High School, 1736 S. Tenth Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148.

**Roman Catholic High School:** Varsity Baseball, Varsity Track, Varsity Rugby. All applications should be received on or before Wednesday, July 28, 2010. Applicants should contact: Mr. Robert O'Neill, Principal, Roman Catholic High School, 301 North Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107.

**Archbishop Ryan:** Boys' Lacrosse. All applications should be received on or before Wednesday, July 28, 2010. Applicants should contact: Mr. George Todt, Athletic Director, Archbishop Ryan High School, 11201 Academy Road, Philadelphia, PA 19154.

**Bishop Shanahan:** Girls' Tennis. All applications should be received on or before Wednesday, July 28, 2010. Applicants should contact: Sr. Maureen Lawrence McDermott, IHM, Principal, Bishop Shanahan High School, 220 Woodbine Road, Downingtown, PA 19335.

**Archbishop Wood:** Girls' Lacrosse. All applications should be received on or before Wednesday, July 28, 2010. Applicants should contact: Mr. Joseph Sette, Athletic Director, Archbishop Wood High School, 655 York Road, Warminster, PA 18974.



# 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
Morey's Piers, Wildwood		
Waterpark Tickets	----	\$26.00
Amusement Park Tickets	----	\$41.00

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](mailto: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 or contact the ACT Office.

**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](mailto:nacst.nacst@verizon.net).