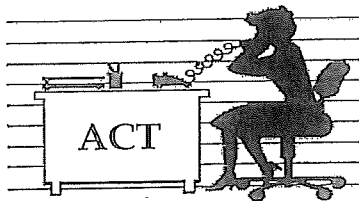


THE

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 XXXII
No. 2 - Fax 215-568-8270 - e-mail (nacst.nacst@verizon.net) - web site(www.act1776.com) - Oct.-Nov. 2011



From The
President's Desk

BAD TIMING: BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION JEOPARDIZING OUR SCHOOLS

In December, 2010, Cardinal Justin Rigali appointed the Blue Ribbon Commission as a “strategic advisory group. . . to chart the future course of Catholic education in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.” The 17 member Commission was to have issued its findings this past October. Now, we hear that the report is expected on January 5, 2012. This delay is especially unsettling for all of us who are waiting to hear which of our schools will be affected by the Commission’s “recommendations.”

What is truly upsetting about the delay is the simultaneous mandate of the Blue Ribbon Commission that recruitment and registration for the 2012-2013 school year be suspended until their report is promulgated. This is certainly not “strategic” and it goes well beyond the duties of an “advisory” group.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

FROM THE PRESIDENT. . .

On October 21, 2011, the Association of Catholic Teachers wrote to the Secretary for Catholic Education and copied the Chairperson of the Blue Ribbon Commission.

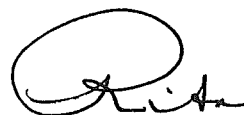
I am writing to you to express concern over the postponement by the System of the recruitment and registration of students for the 2012-2013 school year. The Association truly believes that the re-scheduling of the Universal Visitation Day to January 19, 2012 as well as prohibiting schools from accepting Registration Fees for 2012-2013 at the present time will have an extremely deleterious effect on both the enrollment and the future viability of our Archdiocesan high schools. These actions foster no sense of security for any of our schools and, in fact, may harm all schools by implication.

The Executive Board of the Association of Catholic Teachers is strongly urging the leadership of the Secondary School System to seriously reconsider their actions in regard to the recruitment and retention of students for the 2012-2013 school year.

As we all know, timing is vitally important here. By delaying the release of its report and mandating the suspension of recruitment and registration, the Blue Ribbon Commission is, we believe, adversely affecting our schools. The effect upon enrollment cannot be positive nor can the future employment outlook for a large number of our teachers.

We don't want families going elsewhere to enroll their children. Postponing recruitment and registration until January gives too much lead time to the academies and charter schools, thereby seriously undermining the continued well-being of our schools.

The crucial time for parents to be considering Archdiocesan high schools is now!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Rita", written in a cursive style.

Entretien. Dédicé. Ami.

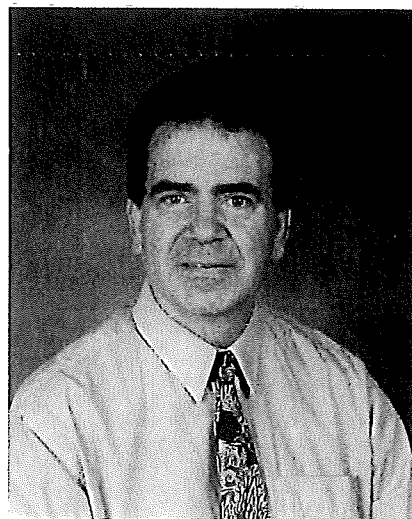
I met Vince Cozzone at Cardinal O'Hara High School at the start of the new fall semester in 1981. I was a transition English teacher from Notre Dame High School in Moylan, PA. Aside from the faculty meetings, I seldom came in contact with Vince as he was a member of the Foreign Language Department.

As he was noticeably missing from social gatherings, I did make sincere efforts to meet with Vince periodically and encouraged him to join us in a few after-school-hours activities such as plays, games and dinners.

When did I discover the gentleman and good friend Vince Cozzone? It happened at the time I returned to work after hip surgery. He became my guardian angel from day one. He would arrive every morning and afternoon to help me to reorganize my classroom, books, papers, etc. Most of all, each day, he would walk me to my car securing my safety. His concern and interest for a fellow colleague cannot be forgotten.

Dedication was Vince's middle name. His faith in God and Church, total commitment to his teaching (the very best in French), and family involvement cannot be equaled. Until God called him home, Vince was occupied lending assistance to his sister, Terry.

Yes, I will miss deeply my caring, dedicated, and dear friend, Vince Cozzone.



*Repose en paix.
Mary V. Basile*

Vince Cozzone is the epitome of the professional educator. A Catholic teacher in the best tradition of the Philadelphia Archdiocese and the universal church, Vince began his career teaching in Catholic elementary school in Belmont Hills. Like many among our "mature" diocesan faculty, he taught with the enthusiasm that he learned from the sisters who taught him while he attended St. Coleman's Elementary School.

A working teacher and undergraduate student at St. Joseph's University, Vince's time and energies were focused, by necessity, on supporting himself as he pursued his academic degree. His love of learning and teaching the youngsters in his care was shaped during those hectic, formative years in front of students, not much younger than himself.

His passion for languages led him to seek a position in our secondary system. For four decades, Mr. Cozzone taught Science, French, German and a variety of subjects during summer school sessions. His fluency in language, his enthusiasm for all cultures and his concern for his students are his legacy.

Those who labored in his classroom and his colleagues will miss him but will long remember him.

*Anthony DeCurtis
Cardinal O'Hara High School*

Seniority Lists Posted

Article V, Section 1a states "On or before October 31 of each school year, the Secondary School System shall supply to the Association and shall post in the individual schools a complete listing of all teachers in the Secondary School System including those on approved leaves of absence arranged according to system seniority and school seniority."

"Teachers shall have until December 15 to call attention in writing to errors or file grievances with the local school administration concerning their positions on the seniority roster."



Another Note 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 student with the highest general average who is not receiving financial assistance. The \$500 Scholarship is sent to each school to be applied to the student's 10th grade tuition."

Dear Rita,

Please accept our appreciation for the ACT scholarship of \$500.00 for the 2011-12 Annual Fund. Your gift was applied to Pearl Galido's 9th grade tuition. As the Lansdale Catholic High School community implements our strategic plan for the future, your financial and spiritual support allows our school to continue with its mission of truly being "*A learning community, teaching values for life, through a formative Catholic education.*"

In the words of our late Pope John Paul II, "*Few efforts are more important for the present and future well being of the Church and of the nation than efforts expended in the work of education.*" May our Patroness, St. Therese of Lisieux, continue to intercede for us, as we do our very best to meet the needs of all our region's students.

James W. Casey
President

Karen L. Maginnis '82
Director of Advancement and Alumni Affairs

John (Skip) Duffy Remembered

I first met Skip in August of 1965 when we both were freshmen members of Delaware Valley College Football team. We also got to meet two sophomore members of the team, Joe Franchella and Rich Kelly. It is hard to believe that all four of us ended up teaching and coaching at Archbishop Wood High School. Skip was a person who loved to share things with you. When he found out I was an auto racing fan, he made sure I got to meet his father, Jack Duffy, who worked for Hurst Performance Products and attended all of the major events. I was able to receive many racing items from Mr. Duffy. I had the pleasure of seeing Skip do this sharing many times with other teachers, students and friends during the 40 years we worked together. When Skip found out he could "make your day", he went all out to do just that.

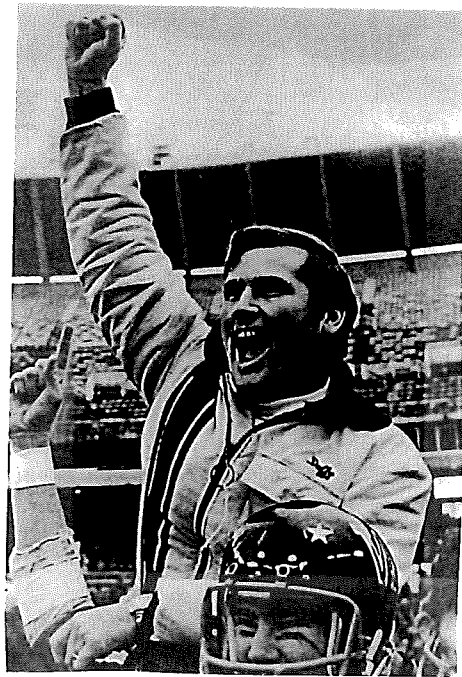
Skip was an excellent coach, and not just in wins and losses, but how he taught his players to love the game of football, how to set goals, how to work to reach those goals and always do it with pride, class and respect for one's self, your school and your opponent. Skip carried that same attitude into his classroom. Anyone who ever played for or was taught by Skip received valuable lessons that they will carry with them forever. Words cannot describe how dedicated many of the current and former Wood students were as they went out of their way to be with Skip and his family during the past two years. They did that because that was what Skip would have done!

Skip had a great sense of humor and he made sure all around him would enjoy it. His laugh would fill up the room and his smile would light up the world. It was impossible to stay down when Skip was around. Even when he was in much pain during his gallant battle with his condition, he would still make some kind of funny statement just to crack you up.

He was a loving husband, great father, but boy you should have seen him with his grandchildren. He was this big tough football coach, but he melted like butter around his grandkids. I was very lucky to be at the shore a few times when Skip and his family were there and saw his interactions with his grandkids. To Skip, family was so important and he was so happy to be with them.

I have learned a lot by being around Skip--how to be a successful coach, hopefully a successful teacher, how important family is, and how and why faith in God matters. But, most of all, I learned how to live with dignity and grace and carry on no matter what. The best way to describe Skip Duffy, with all due respect to the young ladies he taught the past 20 years, is to say Skip taught boys how to be men and showed men how to still be little boys.

God bless you, Skip Duffy. I and everyone at Wood will always miss you and we will never forget you.



Steve Peters
Archbishop Wood HS

VOLUNTARY VISION PLAN **OPEN ENROLLMENT**

The deadline for enrolling in the DAVIS VISION PLAN is Friday, November 25, 2011. Benefits will go into effect on January 1, 2012.

Enrollment information has been emailed to all ACT Members. If you did not receive this email, please contact the ACT Office and we will forward the information to you.

Please return your application and a check made payable to the Association of Catholic Teachers to the ACT Office at 1700 Sansom Street, Suite 903, Philadelphia, PA 19103 no later than November 25, 2011.

ATTENTION RETIREES

The Association would like to add your email address to our email list. If you would like to receive the newsletter, member service information, and other pertinent information by email, please let us know. Send us a note to act@act1776.com and we will add your name to our list.

IMPORTANT MEDICAL INFORMATION FOR RETIRED TEACHERS TURNING AGE 65

Retired teachers who turn age 65 will be removed from the Archdiocesan medical plan on the first of the month in which they turn 65. Example: If you are turning 65 on December 6, 2011, you would be removed from the teachers' medical plan on December 1, 2011. This is because you become eligible for Medicare on the first day of the month in which you turn 65. You should contact Medicare at least two months prior to your 65th birthday to start the enrollment process so that your coverage goes into effect on the first day of the month in which you turn 65.

MEDICAL RATES FOR THE 2011-2012 PLAN YEAR

(NOVEMBER 1, 2011 - OCTOBER 31, 2012)

PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS OVER 17 PAYS

(Beginning with the November 11, 2011 pay and ending with the pay of June 22, 2012)

| | <u>PERSONAL CHOICE PPO</u> | | <u>KEYSTONE EAST HMO</u> | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|------------|--------------------------|------------|
| Employee | \$70.71 | (* \$2.47) | \$49.33 | (* \$0.95) |
| Employee & child | \$143.05 | (* \$4.97) | \$100.55 | (* \$2.02) |
| Employee & children | \$159.64 | (* \$5.54) | \$112.47 | (* \$2.26) |
| Employee & Spouse | \$170.30 | (* \$5.91) | \$119.95 | (* \$2.41) |
| Full Family | \$186.64 | (* \$6.48) | \$131.38 | (* \$2.64) |

*Increase over last year

PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS OVER 22 PAYS

(Beginning with the November 11, 2011 pay and ending with the pay of August 31, 2012)

| | <u>PERSONAL CHOICE PPO</u> | | <u>KEYSTONE EAST HMO</u> | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|------------|--------------------------|------------|
| Employee | \$54.64 | (* \$1.91) | \$38.12 | (* \$0.73) |
| Employee & child | \$110.54 | (* \$3.84) | \$77.70 | (* \$1.57) |
| Employee & children | \$123.36 | (* \$4.28) | \$86.90 | (* \$1.74) |
| Employee & Spouse | \$131.60 | (* \$4.57) | \$92.69 | (* \$1.86) |
| Full Family | \$144.23 | (* \$5.01) | \$101.52 | (* \$2.04) |

*Increase over last year

**FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNT
IMPORTANT ENROLLMENT INFORMATION**

If you elect to participate in the 2012 Flexible Spending Account Program, please be mindful of the following:

The **Health Care** Flexible Spending Account allows you to pay for qualified medical and health care costs for you and your dependents (family members covered under your medical plan). Eligible expenses include deductibles, co-payments, prescription glasses, orthodontia, and certain over-the-counter medicines and supplies.

The **Dependent Care** Flexible Spending Account helps you pay for child or elder care services so you and your spouse (if applicable) can work. Eligible expenses include child or elder care center, nursery or pre-school, after-school care and in-home care (for children and adults).

If you want reimbursement for health care expenses for you and your family members, you must check that you elect to participate in the Health Care FSA. If you need reimbursement for child or elder care expenses, you must check that you elect to participate in the Dependent Care FSA.

Please be very careful. If you check the Dependent Care FSA box and actually wanted the Health Care FSA, ***you will lose whatever money you apply to the Dependent Care FSA. There will be no reimbursement for monies put into the wrong account.***

**IMPORTANT MEDICAL INFORMATION
CONCERNING YOUR DEPENDENT CHILDREN TURNING AGE 26**

Dependent children currently on your health plan will remain on your plan until they turn 26. **Students turning 26 in November 2011 and December 2011 will be removed from your medical plan effective January 1, 2012.**

Effective January 1, 2012, dependent children who turn 26 will be removed on the first day of the month following their 26th birthday in accordance with the Health Care Reform Act.

ACT School Visit Schedule 2011-2012

| NAME OF SCHOOL | ACT VISITOR | DATE | DAY |
|-------------------------------|--------------|-------------|-----------|
| Bonner-Prendergast (Del. 445) | Rita & Irene | February 28 | Tuesday |
| Carroll (Del. 472) | Irene | December 7 | Wednesday |
| Conwell-Egan (Bucks 789) | Irene | March 6 | Tuesday |
| Hallahan | Irene | January 10 | Tuesday |
| Holy Cross (Burl. 669) | Irene | November 30 | Wednesday |
| St. Hubert | Rita | February 7 | Tuesday |
| Fr. Judge | Irene | March 20 | Tuesday |
| Lansdale (Mont. 347) | Rita | November 8 | Tuesday |
| Little Flower | Rita | March 27 | Tuesday |
| McDevitt (Mont. 321) | Irene | February 14 | Tuesday |
| Neumann-Goretti | Rita | December 6 | Tuesday |
| O'Hara (Del. 459) | Rita & Irene | January 17 | Tuesday |
| Pope John Paul II | Rita & Irene | November 15 | Tuesday |
| Roman | Irene | November 22 | Tuesday |
| Ryan | Rita & Irene | March 13 | Tuesday |
| Shanahan (Chester 877) | Irene | February 8 | Wednesday |
| West Catholic | Irene | February 23 | Thursday |
| Wood (Bucks 761) | Rita | December 13 | Tuesday |



*Happy
Thanksgiving*

*From
Rita, Irene, Ginny and Caitlín*

