



CATHOLIC SCHOOL CHRONICLE

JANUARY 2015

FROM THE DESK OF THE SUPERINTENDENT . . .

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UPCOMING EVENTS

1 Pope Francis has declared 2015 as a Year of Consecrated Life. The purpose is to help families learn about the consecrated religious life and the contributions made by religious men and women. "Activities will focus on sharing experiences of prayer, service and community life with those living a consecrated life." (USCCB 2014) Further information can be found on the USCCB website.

2 There is a wonderful prayer for vocations that expresses the heart of the Year of Consecrated Life.

Lord, my God and my loving Father, you have made me to know you, to love you, to serve you, and thereby to find and to fulfill my deepest longings. I know that you are in things, and that every path can lead me to you.

3 *But of them all, there is one especially by which you want me to come to you. Since I will do what you want of me, I pray you, send your Holy Spirit to me: into my mind, to show me what you want of me; into my heart, to give me the determination to do it, and to do it with all my love, with all my mind, and with all of my strength right to the end. Jesus, I trust in you. Amen. (USCCB)*

4 I hope that each of you will take time during this new year to ask God to help you discern what path He wants you to take in life.

Fran

DID YOU KNOW?

These are some additional tips designed to help principals (new and seasoned) fulfill their leadership roles:

Once you walk across the principal threshold, relationships change-

Recognize that you are now viewed as the ultimate authority in school by parents, former colleagues, and students.

Don't make any drastic changes. Focus on personal learning by observing and building relationships. Make sure that any change is worth it and acknowledged by most as needed.

Meet with your faculty regularly-Prepare teachers ahead of time about what will be discussed, and be respectful of people's time. Keep the meetings short if at all possible.

Assign leadership roles-Design a school-wide discipline plan with your teacher leaders and decide who will handle what and what will be the penalties for a range of behavior infractions.

Don't think teachers want you as their best friend-They need someone who will make sure the school is running properly. www.simple12.com

DIOCESAN SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT . . .

[Sacred Heart School in Cullman, Alabama](#)

In 1878, four years after the founding of Cullman, the Sisters of Notre Dame arrived to start a school in the growing community. Not only was this a chance to educate Catholic children, but all children of the town as there was no other official school at that time. Called Mary Help School, these sisters remained until 1898 when the Sisters were called back to the Mother House. The school sought help from five Benedictine sisters who'd come from San Antonio, Florida.

In 1902, eight Benedictines from Covington, Kentucky arrived and took charge of the school. In June, 1902, the name was changed to Sacred Heart School. Over the years the original wooden church and two-story wooden school were replaced by stone structures still used today. In January, 1973, Sacred Heart became the first church school to be accredited by the State. In 1983, we received Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Today, we continue the mission to educate in a Christian, Catholic environment, the cornerstone of education excellence in Cullman.

A NOTE FROM THE ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT. . .

As leaders in Catholic schools, we know the importance of good leadership. If you cannot lead well, we understand that we cannot be successful. How do successful people lead? John Maxwell created 5 Levels of Leadership that has been used to train leaders in Fortune 500 companies, churches, and schools. He believes that every leader must master these 5 critical stages of leadership to make their organization thrive and move forward:

1. **Position** --- People follow because they have to.
2. **Permission** --- People follow because they want to.
3. **Production** --- People follow because of what you have done for the organization.
4. **People Development** --- People follow because of what you have done for them personally.
5. **Pinnacle** --- People follow because of who you are and what you represent.

John Maxwell explains how true leadership works. It is not generated by your title. In fact, being named to a position is the lowest of the five levels every effective leader achieves. To be more than a boss people are required to follow, you must master the ability to inspire and invest in people. You need to build a team that produces not only results, but also future leaders. By mastering all these stages of leadership along with skill and dedication, each of us can reach the pinnacle of leadership where our influence extends beyond our immediate reach for the benefit of others.

As the leader in your school, reflect on how well you lead according to these stages of leadership. If you want to take your influence to the next level in 2015, work on strengthening all these stages of leadership so you will be the type of leader that effectively impacts lives in our Catholic schools.

-How Successful People Lead by John Maxwell (2013)

SACS ACCREDITATION . . .

The Catholic schools office visited schools within our diocese to ensure we were in compliance with all AdvancED requirements for providing evidence/artifacts for their Self Assessments (5 AdvancED Standards). During these visits, the schools uploaded their final diagnostics/documents into their Accreditation Reports. This month, the Catholic schools' office will decide which 6-8 schools that will be visited by the AdvancED External Review Team in March of 2015.

On a System's level, we have completed all required diagnostics: Self Assessment (standards), Stakeholder Feedback Diagnostic (surveys form stakeholders), Student Performance Diagnostic (data from Iowa Assessment, ACRE, ACT, etc.), AdvancED Assurances, and Goals and Plans. The next area our system will work on is providing evidence and artifacts for our system's Self Assessment. The Catholic schools' office plans to officially submit our final Accreditation Report to AdvancED by the end of the month.

MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF HISPANIC MINISTRY . . .

The office of Hispanic Ministry identifies the Hispanic population in the diocese, and provides them with religious guidance, support and information on matters both secular and religious. It works to help the Hispanic community become self-sufficient, while guiding them toward a commitment to serve the Church, sharing with others the good news of salvation. Contact Deacon Andres Rodriguez, Director at Hispanic Ministry at dcnandres@bhmdiocese.org or Martha Maria Morales, Coordinator for Young Adult Ministry & Hispanic Youth Ministry, at mmmorales@bhmdiocese.org for further information. They can also be reached by phone at (205) 838-8308.



RESOURCES

NCEA offers a range of career education options and information in various formats to support Catholic educators in schools, parishes, and seminaries.

Online Courses:

Designed with the active Catholic educator in mind, online courses offer flexibility and affordability. Current online course offerings across the NCEA include (www.ncea.org):

★*Catholic Distance Learning Network (CDLN)*. A coordinated, self-directed online course and workshop curriculum for NCEA-member seminaries and secondary school educators. Certification courses are accredited using the general standards for accreditation of the Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools (the COA of the ATS) and International Society for Technology in Education: National Educational Technology Standards for Teachers (ISTE-NETS).

[Certification Course in Online Teaching](#). The modules for this course, developed by Dr. Mary Beckmann, program director for the CDLN, with the assistance of Mr. Raul Lozada, instructional designer at Holy Apostles College & Seminary, are made freely available to everyone for the purpose of demonstrating the essential elements involved in creating an online teaching and learning environment.

Learn more about the [online teaching certification course](#).

[Certification Course in Teaching Research Design](#). The modules for this course, developed by Mr. William Badke, MLS, associate librarian at Trinity Western University, are made freely available to everyone for the purpose of advancing the cause of teaching research design.

Learn more about the [teaching research design certification course](#).

[Massive Open Online Course \(MOOC\)](#). A MOOC provides one easy registration for the certification courses with an added learning experience covering a range of topics. Registrants not seeking certification may participate in one or both of the above CDLN courses for free. Those who complete the modules in each course will receive a certificate of attendance from the MOOC moderator for the purpose of receiving continuing education units from their education offices. Those who seek the COA and ISTE-NETS certification in either the online teaching and learning segment or the teaching research design segment must pay a tuition fee of \$500 per course. The fees provide you with an instructor who will evaluate your work and engage you in dialogue concerning it.

"The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires."

William Arthur Ward

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

NCEA Webinars cover trending and need to know topics relevant to your career in Catholic education. All participants will receive the recorded webinar for reference and inclusion among other professional learning resources.

See (www.ncea.org)

Promoting the Knowledge of the Faith

Tuesday, January 27, 2015 at 3 p.m. ET

Presented by Mickie Abatemarco, NCEA Religious Education Depart. & Bishop Frank J. Caggiano, Diocese of Bridgeport

Disrupting Poverty: Turning High-Poverty Schools into High-Performing Schools Association of Supervision Curriculum Development (ASCD) Institute

January 20th-21st, 2015

Presented by William Parrett and Kathleen Budge, Boise State University Phoenix, Arizona

Register online at www.ascd.org/institutes

Fit Teaching: An Introduction To The Framework For Targeted And Intentional Teaching Association of Supervision Curriculum Development (ASCD) Institute

January 20th-21st, 2015

Presented by Douglas Fisher and Nancy Frey - Phoenix, Arizona—Register online at www.ascd.org/institutes

Differentiated Instruction And The New Standards: Helping All Learners Succeed With Challenging Content Association of Supervision Curriculum Development (ASCD) Institute

January 22nd-23rd, 2015

Phoenix, Arizona—Register online at www.ascd.org/institutes

Building Teachers' Capacity For Success: A Collaborative Approach For Coaches and School Leaders

Association of Supervision Curriculum Development (ASCD) Institute

January 22nd-23rd, 2015

Presented by Pete Hall, Spokane Public Schools, WA—Phoenix, Arizona

Register online at www.ascd.org/institutes



UPCOMING EVENTS/DEADLINES

- ⇒ January 5th—School reopens
- ⇒ January 6th—CSW Mass Students and Adults count due to CSO
- ⇒ January 6th—List of Years of Service certificate recipients
- ⇒ January 7th-SACS Standards Chair meeting at Our Lady of Sorrows
- ⇒ January 7th-Principals’ Advisory Council (PAC) meeting at Our Lady of Sorrows
- ⇒ January 19th -MLK Holiday (CSO Closed)
- ⇒ January 25th-31st -Catholic Schools Week
- ⇒ January 30th –Catholic Schools Mass at St. Paul’s Cathedral



OUR VISION AND MISSION

OUR VISION:

Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Birmingham provide an excellent educational experience in the Catholic tradition enabling all students to develop their God-given talents.

OUR MISSION:

The mission of the Diocese of Birmingham Catholic School System is to educate our students to seek God in Truth and for loving service by teaching the message of the Gospel, forming a community of faith, providing the whole child with a Catholic and Christ-centered environment, and inspiring all to reach their full academic and spiritual potential.

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