THE SPIRIT OF '76

The Newspaper of Local 1776
The Association of Catholic Teachers

60 Years Strong
1966-2026

3070 BRISTOL PIKE, BLDG. 2, SUITE 101, BENSALEM, PA 19020– 215-568-4175 – VOLUME XXXXVII-No.3
Fax 215-568-8270 – email (act@act1776.com) - website (www.act1776.com) **NOVEMBER, 2026**



From the President's Desk

As we move through November, I hope everyone has settled into a routine as we approach the Thanksgiving break. This time of year gives us an opportunity to appreciate the people who make our schools such special places, whether they are some of your students, fellow faculty members, staff, or even administration. As always, I want to thank you for the dedication, patience, and professionalism you bring to your classrooms each day.

It has been some time since I've mentioned the next subject, but I want to take a moment to remind everyone about the appropriate use of technology, both inside and outside of school. Technology continues to play an important role in our classrooms, but it is important that we use it thoughtfully and responsibly. Please make sure you are familiar with the Acceptable Use Policy for Technology, which is an addendum to the Archdiocesan Standards of Ministerial Behavior and Boundaries, and that you continue to follow its guidelines. As we have seen in the past, violations of these policies can result in disciplinary action, and the Association has represented teachers in situations where the consequences have been serious.

Please remember that anything you do on school computers or through school accounts—including emails, online searches, downloads, and other digital activity—may be accessible to school

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From the President's Desk . . .

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administration. The same caution applies to your use of personal devices and social media outside of school. When communicating with students, stick to approved school platforms and established professional boundaries. Be mindful of the content you share, the resources you introduce into your classroom, and the conversations you engage in with students, whether online or in person. With how quickly information can be shared and taken out of context today, it is always better to pause and think before posting, sending, or sharing something. If you are unsure whether an action could create a problem, err on the side of caution. My goal in raising this issue is not to discourage the thoughtful use of technology in education, but to help protect you and your career.

On a more positive note, I want to express my sincere appreciation to all of the teachers who have taken the time to speak with me during my school visits this semester or have reached out through email to share their concerns. Hearing directly from you is one of the most important parts of serving as your President. Whether you have brought forward a specific issue at your school, asked a question about the contract, or simply wanted to make me aware of something that could be improved, I do value your willingness to reach out. These conversations help me better understand what is happening in our vastly different schools and where the Association can focus its attention. Please continue to share your concerns with me and your local representatives. Your voices matter, and I want every member to feel that they have someone in their corner.

Finally, I am happy that I, and the other members of the Executive Board, can continue to serve you for another two years. I am grateful for the continued confidence and support of our members, and I do not take the responsibility of this position lightly. My hope is to continue building on the work we have already accomplished, strengthen communication between the Association and our members, and remain accessible to teachers who need support or have concerns. I will continue to advocate for fair treatment, work to protect our contractual rights, and make sure that the concerns of our members are heard. There is always more work to do, but I remain committed to doing my best for each of you and for our Association.

As we approach Thanksgiving, I hope you have an opportunity to enjoy some well-deserved time away from school with family and friends. Thank you for everything you do for your students, your colleagues, and our Catholic school community. I am grateful to represent you and look forward to continuing our work together.

James

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST UNION MEMBERS

Thank you for Joining Us!

Alexandra Asaro
Bishop Shanahan High School
Kevin Costello
Archbishop Wood High School
Sofia Domingot
Archbishop Ryan High School
Louis Governatore
SS. John Neumann and Maria Goretti High School
Keith Hollis
Archbishop Wood High School
Sa-Han Jang
Bishop Shanahan High School
Kimberly McCann
Bishop Shanahan High School
Matthias Rosari
Archbishop Wood High School
Thomas Seifert
Bishop Shanahan High School

The Executive Board of the Association of Catholic Teachers and its members welcome you and wish you a happy and rewarding school year.

SYSTEM SENIORITY LIST POSTED

Article V, Section 1a states "On or before October 31 of each school year, the System shall supply to the Association and shall post in individual schools a complete listing of all full-time lay teachers in the 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 to file grievances with the local school administration concerning their positions on the seniority roster.

OPEN ENROLLMENT FOR THE

ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC TEACHERS

VOLUNTARY VISION PLAN



Enrollment information for the Voluntary Vision Plan through Davis Vision for the 2026 calendar year was sent out via email. An application is also posted on the ACT Webpage at www.act1776.com.

For teachers currently on the Voluntary Vision Plan: If you have not used the plan this year, try and do so before your benefits expire on December 31, 2026.

All ACT Members wishing to enroll or renew their coverage in the Voluntary Vision Plan for the 2026 calendar year, will need to submit a new completed application form along with payment no later than **November 20, 2026.**

Benefits will go into effect on January 1, 2027.

REST IN PEACE

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During the month of November, let us remember all those whom we have lost this year.

ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM, O LORD, AND LET PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE UPON THEM. MAY THEIR SOULS AND ALL THE SOULS OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED, THROUGH THE MERCY OF GOD, REST IN PEACE. AMEN.

UPCOMING SCHOOL VISIT

Conwell-Egan Catholic High School
November 18, 2026

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

ACT OFFICE HOURS: The hours of operation are Monday through Thursday, 9:00 to 4:30 and Friday, 9:00 to 4:00.

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.

EMAIL ADDRESS: If your personal email address has changed, please let us know as soon as possible. If you are not receiving our emails, please let us know.

INSURANCE CARDS: If you need a new dental, medical or vision card, contact Ginny at ginny@act1776.com.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

If at any time, you receive an email from the ACT Office or from anyone within this office that has a **vague subject line** such as "Document" or "Photos" DO NOT OPEN IT. These types of emails are usually spam and may contain viruses. Do not open the email or click on any links.

Legitimate emails coming from the ACT Office will always have a detailed subject line.





The Association of Catholic Teachers

wishes to thank our members and their family members who are Veterans
and who serve or have served our country honorably.
Your sacrifices are appreciated and respected.

Thank you for your Service!

A veteran is someone who, at one point in their life,
wrote a blank check made payable to 'The United States of America,'
for an amount up to and including their life."

God Bless our Veterans and God Bless America!

WE REMEMBER ALL OUR PATRON SAINTS WITH GRATEFUL AFFECTION



St. Augustine of Hippo and St. Katherine Drexel
Patron Saints of Msgr. Bonner-Abp. Prendergast High School

St. John Baptist de La Salle
Patron Saint of Archbishop Carroll High School

St. Francis of Assisi
Patron Saint of Conwell-Egan Catholic High School

St. Hubert
Patron Saint of Saint Hubert High School

St. Francis de Sales
Patron Saint of Father Judge High School

St. Therese of Lisieux
Patron Saint of Lansdale Catholic High School and Little Flower Catholic High School for Girls

St. John Neumann and St. Maria Goretti
Patron Saints of SS. John Neumann and Maria Goretti High School

The Blessed Virgin Mary
Patron Saint of Cardinal O'Hara High School

St. Pope John Paul II
Patron Saint of Pope John Paul II High School

St. Michael the Archangel
Patron Saint of Roman Catholic High School

St. Francis of Assisi and the Blessed Virgin Mary
Patron Saints of Archbishop Ryan High School

St. Francis Xavier
Patron Saint of Bishop Shanahan High School

St. John Baptist de La Salle
Patron Saint of West Catholic

St. Carlo Acutis
Patron Saint of Archbishop Wood High School

The Association of Catholic Teachers

wishes you and your family a

Happy and Festive Thanksgiving!



We are grateful for your membership and support!

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever."

1 Chronicles 16:34