



# THE

The Newspaper of Local 1776  
The Association of Catholic Teachers

# SPIRIT

# OF '76

*60 Years Strong*  
1966-2026

3070 BRISTOL PIKE, BLDG. 2, SUITE 101, BENSALEM, PA 19020– 215-568-4175 – VOLUME XXXXVI-NO.8  
Fax 215-568-8270 – email ([act@act1776.com](mailto:act@act1776.com)) - website ([www.act1776.com](http://www.act1776.com)) **APRIL 2026**



## From the President's Desk

Entering the fourth quarter, it is surprising how quickly the second half of the school year seems to have passed. April itself always brings a renewed sense of urgency, but also a clear view of the finish line. The work you have done to guide, support, and challenge your students throughout the year now comes into sharper focus as they prepare to demonstrate all they have learned.

This time of year, it can feel especially demanding. Balancing instruction, assessments, extracurricular commitments, and the everyday needs of your students is no small task. I know many of you that teach our AP classes are trying to get the last bit of information in before they take their tests. Yet, time and again, you continue to meet these challenges with professionalism, care, and an unwavering commitment to your vocation as educators in our Catholic schools.

As you move through these final months, I encourage you to take a moment to recognize the impact you have made—not only academically, but in the lives of your students. The relationships you have built and the values you model each day are lasting contributions that extend far beyond the classroom.

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At the same time, I want to provide a brief update on contract negotiations. Discussions with the System are ongoing and progressing, and we remain hopeful that we will have an agreement to present to the membership for ratification in June, before the close of the school year. While not able to comment yet on the specific areas both sides are addressing, we will continue to keep you informed as we move forward.

As we approach the end of the year, I also ask that you remain mindful about your interactions with students, particularly in the use of technology. Whether communicating through email, learning platforms, or other digital tools, professionalism and clear boundaries remain essential. Taking a thoughtful and consistent approach helps protect both you and your students, while maintaining the high standards expected in our schools.

Finally, please also remember to take care of yourselves. Finishing strong does not mean finishing exhausted. Lean on one another, support your colleagues, and take pride in the collective work being done across our schools. I wish you a productive and rewarding conclusion to the school year

*James*

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## SCHOOL SENIORITY LISTS POSTED

Article V, Section 1b states **“On or before April 1** of each school year, the Secondary School System shall supply to the Association and shall post in each school a complete listing of all full-time teachers in that school including those on approved leaves of absence arranged according to school seniority.” **“Teachers shall have until May 1** to call attention in writing to errors or file grievances with the local school administration concerning their positions on the seniority list.”

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## UNION DUES FOR TAX YEAR 2025

January 2025 – June 2025 = \$390.00  
(For those who resigned or retired as of June 2025)

January 2025– December 2025 = \$649.84

# Senior Delegate Elections

May 15<sup>th</sup> – June 1<sup>st</sup>

**Teachers need an Advocate. Do you have what it takes to be a Senior Delegate?** If Social Justice in action, teacher dignity and respect are issues that you find important, and, if you would like to work with these issues, then consider running for Senior Delegate at your school.

## Responsibilities Include:

1. Act as a liaison between your members and administration.
2. Provide representation for your members in situations where any member reasonably feels that disciplinary action may occur.
3. File grievances to settle issues of opposing interpretations of the contract.
4. Encourage members to become familiar with and support the contract.
5. Conduct meetings at the local level.
6. Attend all meetings to represent your school.
7. Encourage your members to attend general membership meetings.
8. Keep the Executive Board informed of local issues.
9. Be responsible for conducting all union elections in the school.
10. Be responsible for the ACT Bulletin Board
11. Distribute information from the ACT Office to the teachers.
12. Perform duties assigned to you by the Executive Board.
13. Be responsible for signing up new members and maintaining the good standing of present members.

*This is a good time to once again **thank** all the Senior Delegates who have served the Union and their own school members so well this year. The ACT Office and the Executive Board need and appreciate your work. Senior Delegates will receive a stipend of \$500 for the 2025-2026 school year.*



## BJ'S WHOLESALE CLUB

Members of the Association of Catholic Teachers can join BJ's Wholesale Club or renew their BJ's membership at a discounted rate. Information on how to join BJ's or renew your membership was emailed to members on March 31, 2026. **The deadline to join/renew is April 30, 2026.**

**To renew your membership**, call 1-800-313-8887 and reference promo code 100026.

**For new members** wishing to join, click on the link below.

[www.bjs.com/assocofcatholicteacherslocal](http://www.bjs.com/assocofcatholicteacherslocal)

If you have any questions, contact [cfontana@bjs.com](mailto:cfontana@bjs.com).

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## UNITED CONCORDIA DENTAL PLAN

Please be aware that if you are making changes to your dental coverage such as adding or deleting dependents, you must complete a **United Concordia Enrollment/Change Form** and return it to the ACT Office. The form can be found on the ACT Website at [www.act1776.com](http://www.act1776.com). The form can be returned via email to [ginny@act1776.com](mailto:ginny@act1776.com) or faxed to Ginny's attention at 215-568-8270. Forms must be completed and returned within 30 days of the event. (marriage, birth, etc.)

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## PHILLIES TICKETS

**There is a limited number of Phillies tickets remaining for Friday, May 8, 2026, in section 422.** Tickets cost \$37.50 each. If interested, please contact Ginny as soon as possible with the number of tickets needed and to confirm that tickets are still available before mailing your check.

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## ACT GOLF SHIRTS



ACT will be placing another order for the ACT Golf Shirts. Shirts cost \$25 and will be available in blue, white, or gray. An order form can be found on the ACT Website at [www.act1776.com](http://www.act1776.com). You can pay for your shirt using Zelle through your banking app, or you can send a check payable to the Association of Catholic Teachers to Association of Catholic Teachers, 3070 Bristol Pike, Suite 2-101, Bensalem, PA 19020. **We must receive your order form by April 24, 2026.**

## RETIREMENT SEMINARS FOR TEACHERS

The Archdiocese will be hosting two Zoom meetings for teachers who are planning to retire this year or who are considering retirement in the near future. The dates are listed below.

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- The first meeting, **Medicare 101**, will be held on

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2026, AT 3:30 PM**

Representatives from Malloy Associates will provide information on Medicare and options for supplemental insurance programs.

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- The second meeting, **Archdiocesan Pension Plan and OCE Early Retirement Incentives**, will be held on

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2026, AT 3:30 PM**

Mike Coffey from USI will be the guest speaker regarding the pension plan. Representatives from the Office of Catholic Education, Educational Financial Services and the Association of Catholic Teachers will also be on hand to answer any of your questions.

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Pre-registration is not required. If you would like to receive meeting materials, please email [tgeisler@archphila.org](mailto:tgeisler@archphila.org) requesting retirement materials.

## SILVER ANNIVERSARY



Congratulations to **Martha Dugan**, teacher at Archbishop Wood High School, for **twenty-five years** of dedicated service to the students in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

## TEACHER IN THE NEWS



Congratulations to **Ken Eaves, Science Department Chair** at Roman Catholic High School, who received **The John Hoban '35 Memorial Service Award** at Roman's 2026 Sports Hall of Fame. This award is given to honor an individual who demonstrates exceptional service, leadership and/or achievement.

## NEWSLETTER CONTESTS

In celebrating the Association's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we have been giving members the opportunity to participate in a contest each month. The winner receives a \$25 gift card. (Rita's, WAWA, Dunkin Donuts, etc.) We encourage all ACT members, active or retired, to enter our contest each month. If there is only one entry, guess what? You win! We are looking forward to having our members participate in a fun and creative way.

### Winning Entry for the March Madness 3-picture Visual



(Submitted by Irene Tori, Retired, ACT President Emerita)

Irene will receive a \$25 gift card for Rita's Water Ice for her entry into the contest.

## WE WISH YOU A HAPPY EASTER SEASON



### Association of Catholic Teachers

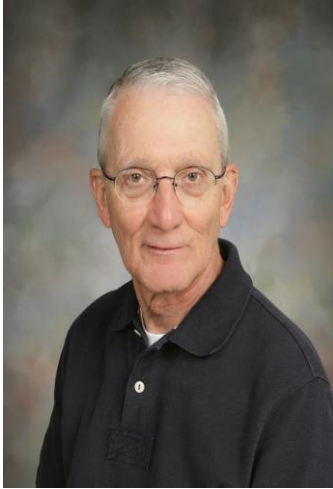
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## IN MEMORIAM



**DANIEL J. VORGITY**  
Retired, Archbishop Ryan HS

Dan Vorgity was a man who wore many hats. He was a devoted family man, an accounting teacher at Archbishop Ryan High School for over 45 years who inspired numerous young men and women, a loyal colleague and friend to many, a Department chairperson, an entrepreneur who created a successful business, and an outdoors man and fisherman who loved the seashore. Dan was organized, detail oriented, and took pride in doing things the right way. He lived his life with laughter. He will be missed by many. Rest easy, Dan.

*Written by: Bonnie Casey, Retired  
Archbishop Ryan High School*

## RETIREES' LUNCHEON



**Tuesday, May 12, 2026,  
12:00 – 4:00 PM to be held at  
Georgine's Restaurant  
1320 Newport Road  
West Bristol, PA 19007**

Ticket price is \$35 per person. **You may bring a guest.**

A Registration Form is posted on the ACT Website at [www.act1776.com](http://www.act1776.com). **The deadline to sign up is April 24, 2026.** If you have any questions, please call Ginny at 215-568-4175, or email her at [ginny@act1776.com](mailto:ginny@act1776.com).

## "Earth Day" by Jane Yolen



*I am the Earth. And the Earth is me.  
Each blade of grass, each honey tree,  
Each bit of mud, and stick and stone  
is blood and muscle, skin and bone.  
And just as I need every bit  
of me to make my body fit,*

*So Earth needs grass and stone and tree  
And things that grow here naturally.  
That's why we celebrate this day.  
That's why across the world we say:  
As long as life, as dear, as free,  
I am the Earth and the Earth is me.*

## APRIL NEWSLETTER CONTEST

### Calling all Poets

Submit an original "Earth Day" or "Springtime" poem.



E-mail your submission by May 10, 2026, to [act@act1776.com](mailto:act@act1776.com) with "April Newsletter Contest" in the subject line.

**The winner will receive a \$25 WAWA gift card, and your poem will be published in the May edition of the Newsletter.**

CONTINUED  
EASTER BLESSINGS  
TO YOU ALL!



Alleluia, Alleluia!