

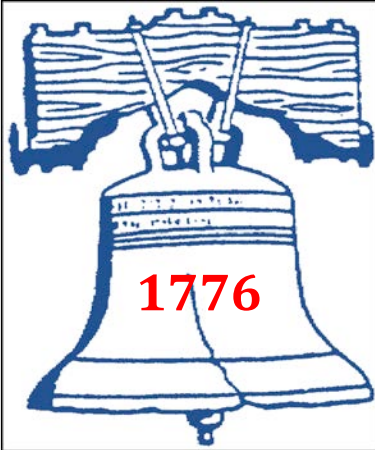
The Newspaper of Local 1776
The Association of Catholic Teachers

THE

SPIRIT

OF '76

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Fax 215-568-8270 - email (act@act1776.com) - website (www.act1776.com) **DECEMBER 2023**



From the President's Desk

Christmas Wishes

With Christmas being only a few days away and with 2023 drawing to a close, I am taking a few moments to reflect on the reason for this most wonderful time of the year.

During the Christmas break, please remember to take some time to just relax and rejuvenate. You have earned this concentrated period of time with your families and friends.

Also, take a few moments to count the blessings in your life. I think you will be amazed at how many there are.

Christmas Blessings to you and your families. Best wishes for a very Happy and Healthy New Year.

Irene

Another Proclamation for Ingrid!



Pictured above is Bishop Shanahan teacher, John DeSantis, with his Collie, Ingrid.

Rest in Peace



+ *George Andelfinger, retired, Archbishop Ryan High School* +
+ *Edward Cox, retired, Saint Hubert High School* +

RETIREMENT NEWS

The Association of Catholic Teachers congratulates
Carole Anne Dominello, Archbishop Wood High School,
on her recent retirement from the Secondary School System,
after 54 years of dedicated service.

Enjoy your well-earned retirement, Carole Anne!



The Association of Catholic Teachers congratulates
Kathleen Kopf, (retired) Pope John Paul II High School,
(former ACT Senior Delegate and Area Vice President)
**on her induction into Pope John Paul II High School's
2023 Legacy of Impact Hall of Fame.**

Congratulations, Kathy!



(Kathy is pictured second from right)

INSURANCE INFORMATION

Dental Plan: As of January 1, 2024, you and each of your family members have \$1,000 in dental benefits to use for covered services in calendar year 2024. A list of your dental benefits is listed on the ACT Website at www.act1776.com.

Medical Plan: A reminder that you will need to meet your annual \$100 individual deductible and/or \$200 family deductible for calendar year 2024. You may begin receiving bills for services requiring that a deductible be met before payment can be made. **These services include the following:** Outpatient laboratory and pathology, home health care and/or hospice, skilled nursing, chemotherapy, radiation, dialysis, outpatient Private Duty Nursing, and physician/surgeon charges that require a deductible.

Voluntary Vision Plan: Open enrollment for the Voluntary Vision Plan has come to an end. If you were on the plan last year, you should use the same Vision Card that you were issued. New members to the plan will receive their Vision card in the mail. **Vision benefits will go into effect on January 1, 2024.** If you do not have a Vision Card, please email Ginny at ginny@act1776.com.

FSA REMINDER

If you were a participant in the 2023 FSA Program, please remember that all monies in your account should be exhausted by December 31, 2023. Any funds that remain in your account after December 31, 2023 will be lost. However, this does not mean that all your eligible expenses have to be submitted by December 31, 2023. You have 90 days after the close of the calendar year in which to submit eligible expenses for 2023.

HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A BLESSED NEW YEAR!

The ACT Office will be closed for the Christmas holidays, beginning at Noon on Friday, December 22, 2023. **We will return to the office on Tuesday, January 2, 2024.** During the Office closure, we will be checking both email and phone messages. If you need to contact us, please send us an email with your message and a phone number as well as a good time to reach you. We will get back to you as soon as possible.





A TRIBUTE TO GEORGE ANDELFINGER

1945-2023



It has been an honor and a privilege knowing George Andelfinger, having worked with him for over forty-plus years for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia at both Northeast Catholic High School and Archbishop Ryan High School.

George Andelfinger was the epitome of a Catholic School educator: caring, religious, prepared, devoted to his students and our mission of educating fine responsible citizens.

He never hesitated to take additional time to help students fully comprehend the subject matter. His affable patient demeanor reassured the struggling students. He made a difference in the lives of so many students over the decades. As testimony to their beloved teacher, Facebook was filled with their complimentary comments of affection and respect.

For many years, George persevered through chronic illness episodes, never allowing his condition to affect him in the classroom. He was an inspiration to faculty and students alike. His gentle nature, genuine kindness, and contagious laugh brightened every day. At Christmas time, the students especially looked forward to Mr. Andelfinger getting dressed up as Santa Claus. With his natural beard and glorious chuckle, he delighted the entire student body. In fact, he spread this cheer throughout the year.

Besides being an effective teacher, George was a well-respected colleague -- a cooperative, hard-working, innovative team player. First to volunteer to teach a science course when needed, he also was instrumental in designing supplemental subject material. He significantly contributed to the Science Department.

On a personal note, I was fortunate to have worked and learned from such a professional and fine person. I am so proud to call him my friend.

Thank you, George, for everything that you brought to our lives. In particular, the homemade knitted and crocheted Christmas items that you laboriously worked on all year that so many of us received and treasured.

You will be remembered with great affection and admiration. Your generous smile put a smile on the hearts of all who knew you.

Gerard Donahue, Science Teacher
Archbishop Ryan High School



IN MEMORIAM

+ Edward Cox +

1940-2023

Ed Cox was an icon at St. Hubert. For more than 25 years he graced the halls of the building with a smile and kind word for everyone. I first met Ed when I was a student teacher at St. Hubert while he was the night maintenance person at school (how he had the strength to do that after teaching all day at St. John Neumann, I'll never know!). Ed was a warm and friendly presence who offered me a lot of advice about the teaching business. I was over the moon when Ed transferred to St. Hubert in the 1990s. He was a valued addition to our faculty.

Ed knew everyone and everyone knew him. After first meeting Ed, I felt as if I knew him for years. His gregarious personality made everyone glad that their path crossed his. Ed was the quintessential Philadelphian. He was a Mummer, a die-hard Notre Dame football fan, loved the Jersey shore, and most importantly, a good Catholic. I never met anyone who exemplified the faith more than Ed. Ask any of the thousands of girls he taught at St. Hubert—they all enjoyed his class and learned something.

At St. Hubert, the faculty puts on a show for the students called Faculty Follies. Each year Ed had an idea for a skit that involved all of the male teachers. One year he created a skit where we would all wear kilts and do an Irish dance. That act got a huge ovation from the girls. To see Ed in that kilt was the highlight of the show. He nailed that dance!

Every time I saw Ed in school he always shook my hand. That moment of kindness was something I'll never forget. After Ed retired he would stop by St. Hubert and visit with us. He always came to my class and spent a few minutes catching up on things. We also became Facebook friends. He never forgot to wish me a happy birthday or discuss sports with me.

We bid Ed a tearful farewell the other day. I miss him greatly. Until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

Rich D'Ambrosio,
English Teacher and Department Head
St. Hubert High School

*The Association of Catholic Teachers
Wishes you and your family*



*A Blessed Christmas
and a
Happy and Safe New Year.*

Merry Christmas