



THE

The Newspaper of Local 1776
The Association of Catholic Teachers

SPIRIT

OF

'76

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1966-2016

3070 BRISTOL PIKE, BLDG. 2, SUITE 101, BENSALEM, PA 19020- 215-568-4175 - VOLUME XXXXV-NO.6
Fax 215-568-8270 - email (act@act1776.com) - website (www.act1776.com) **MARCH 2025**



From the President's Desk

At the end of February, I began making school visits, starting first at Roman Catholic and then spending another day at Cardinal O'Hara the first week of March. This past week I was also out at Conwell-Egan and Archbishop Ryan. All four schools were very welcoming, and I enjoyed getting to see and hear firsthand the different cultures and traditions. In the remaining weeks this month, I will be visiting three more of our schools, Saint Hubert, Bishop Shanahan, and Father Judge. It makes for a busy month!

Whether I've already visited your school or are scheduled to visit over the next two months, I hope you all know that I am here to address your concerns at any point in the year. As I've mentioned, a good deal of my time is going around to our schools or downtown to OCE to address issues as they arise. While I'm in the office as much as possible during the week, the best way to reach me is through email for any issue, large or small. Especially when it comes to issues that come up well after the school day is over or even into the weekend. It is important to me that all of our teachers don't hesitate to reach out at any time if they have questions.

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From the President's Desk

(Continued from page 1)

While I know most are just looking toward the end of the third quarter and how to survive the fourth quarter, I do want to hear any concerns that may be at the back of your minds for next year as well. The Executive Board and I are already starting to talk about a few key issues; the possibility of another Archbishop's Day, contract negotiations, and the potential for a SEPTA strike and how that will affect our teachers, just to name a few. In the next coming months don't be surprised if you hear from us about looking for your viewpoints on these important items.

But for now, I hope you have an uneventful end of the third quarter and an Easter break in a few weeks spent resting with friends and family.

James

THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the ACT *Special Edition Newsletter*, honoring Irene Tori's life work in Catholic Education—25 years as a classroom teacher and 22 years as ACT Staff, and as ACT President for the last four years.

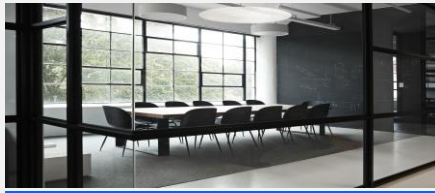
It was evident from the notes and articles that came in that her work was recognized and appreciated. With your help, we were able to create a Special Keepsake for Irene that we know she and her family will treasure! So, again, thank you, for taking the time to contribute to this project. We could not have done it without you!

A copy of the Special Edition Newsletter was emailed to all ACT Members and to our Retirees. If you were unable to open the document due to its size, you can go to the ACT Webpage at www.act1776.com and click on the link to view the *Special Edition of the ACT Newsletter, honoring Irene Tori*.

ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC TEACHERS

SPRING 2025

EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTION



THE FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE BOARD OFFICES ARE OPEN FOR ELECTION THIS YEAR:

- CENTRAL AREA VICE PRESIDENT
- NORTHEAST AREA VICE PRESIDENT
- NORTHWEST AREA VICE PRESIDENT
- SOUTHWEST AREA VICE PRESIDENT

Petitions must be filed with the Nominations and Elections Committee no later than APRIL 10, 2025.

Mail your petition to: Association of Catholic Teachers
ATTN: Nominations and Elections Committee
3070 Bristol Pike, Building 2, Suite 101
Bensalem, PA 19020

Or email your petition to act@act1776.com and in the subject line put **ATTN: Nominations and Elections Committee**, then put your original in the mail to the above address.

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.

VOLUNTARY TRANSFER, TEACHER SWAP, TEMPORARY TRANSFER APPLICATIONS

Teachers interested in applying for a voluntary transfer, teacher swap, or temporary transfer should file their applications no later than **April 1**.

TAX INFORMATION

UNION DUES FOR 2024

January 2024 – December 2024
\$624.54

OR

January 2024 – June 2024
\$384.54*

* For those who resigned or retired in June 2024.

FSA REMINDER

If you were a participant in the 2024 FSA Program, please remember that all monies in your account should have been exhausted by December 31, 2024. You have 90 days after the close of the calendar year in which to submit eligible expenses for 2024.

WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

In conjunction with **National Women In Leadership Month**, which honors women who have successfully challenged the role of women in both business and the paid labor force, the **Association of Catholic Teachers**, along with the **Secondary School System of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia**, and **Holy Family University** sponsored a **Women in Leadership Conference** for female students attending Catholic high schools in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

The **Women in Leadership Conference** is a program focused on inspiring young women to follow their dreams and aspirations. This year the Conference was held on **March 7, 2025**. The Keynote Speaker was **Kathryn Ott Lovell**, *President and CEO, Philadelphia Visitor Center Corporation & Philadelphia250*. Students attending the Conference got to hear stories of real life challenges and successes in the workforce experienced by former Catholic school graduates, **Frances Burns**, *Executive Vice President, Connelly Foundation*, **Jacqueline Giuffrida**, *Director, Hospital Services, Gift of Life Donor Program*, **Jeanine Heck**, *Product Management Leader, PlayerData (Sports Tech Startup)*, **Jennifer Schorn**, *District Attorney, Bucks County, PA*, **Olivia Sharkey**, *Executive Director, Sisters of Saint Joseph Welcome Center*, **Elizabeth A. Ward**, *RN, MSN, APRN-BC, CORLN Assistant Professor, Drexel University, College of Nursing & Health Professions, Family Nurse Practitioner, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Adjunct Faculty, University of Pennsylvania, teaching advance practice nursing students*, and **Representative Martina White**, *Pennsylvania State Representative, 170th District*.



RETIREES AND TEACHERS MAKING THE NEWS



(Marianne Burpulis – left and Rita Schwartz – right)

Congratulations to **Marianne Burpulis**, Saint Hubert Class of 1967, and former World Language teacher at Saint Hubert (1974-2017), for being Inducted into the Saint Hubert Catholic High School for Girls Hall of Fame for Education and to **Rita Schwartz**, ACT President Emeritus (ACT President 1984-2020), and former English, French, Guidance and Reading teacher at Saint Hubert (1963-1975), for being inducted into the Saint Hubert Catholic High School for Girls Hall of Fame for *Christus Vincit*.

On February 2, during Catholic Schools Week, Roman Catholic celebrated milestones reached by members of their faculty and staff. Recognized and celebrated on that day was **Mary Desmond**, long time Guidance Director at Roman Catholic, who retired in August of 2024. Also, recognized and celebrated was **Fitz-Gerald Gallagher**, Roman Alum ('94) and teacher, who was recognized for his 25 years of service to the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and to Roman Catholic High School.

CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU BOTH!



RECENT RETIREE



Congratulations go out to **Karen Grundy** on her recent retirement from Conwell-Egan Catholic High School.

Best wishes, Karen, for a happy and healthy Retirement!

Rest in Peace



+ ***Vincent Toner, Cardinal O'Hara High School*** +

"For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16

ACT CONTACT INFORMATION

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Women in Leadership Conference Photos



"A wise woman wishes to be no one's enemy. A wise woman refuses to be anyone's victim."

~ Maya Angelou

Retirees' Luncheon



May 13, 2025

12:00 – 4:00 PM to be held at

ANTHONY'S RISTORANTE
(formerly the Lamb Tavern)

865 W. Springfield Road
Springfield, PA 19064

Ticket price is \$40 per person. **You may bring a guest.**

RSVP by April 25, 2025.

An invitation and Registration Form was emailed on February 27, 2025. If you did not receive it, please call Ginny at 215-568-4175, or email her at ginny@act1776.com.



“No winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn.”

~Hal Borland

Welcome Spring!