



# THE

The Newspaper of Local 1776  
The Association of Catholic Teachers

# SPIRIT

# OF '76

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From The  
President's Desk

## CONSTRUCTION: The Process Continues

The Constriction process is now entering its final phase as we move closer to the June 10th meeting. At that time, new positions and schools will be selected by the greater majority of the 63 teachers on the List.

At the present time, there are not sufficient openings for all the teachers on the List. In accordance with the Guidelines, some 60 teachers with low system seniority were notified that there was the possibility their positions might be needed to provide jobs for constricted teachers with higher system seniority.

On June 4th, the System and the Association will meet; based upon the number of openings, they may actually need to bump the lowest teachers in the System. Because a number of constricted teachers have multiple competencies, additional positions will be placed on the openings list. Letters will be sent to teachers who are bumped from their jobs. These teachers as

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FROM THE PRESIDENT. . .

well as constricted teachers will be sent information about the meeting on June 10th and a list of available positions throughout the System.

At the meeting on June 10th, the name of each constricted and bumped teacher will be called in strict order of system seniority. The teacher will then select his/her new position in any of the teacher's competencies.

If there is no permanent position for that teacher to select, the teacher may opt to fill a long term substitute position or be laid off. Teachers who select a long term substitute position will fill that job until a permanent position opens. He/She will be treated like a permanent teacher in every way (salary, seniority, benefits, etc.).

Constricted teachers shall be given the opportunity to return to their previous school should a comparable opening for which the teacher is qualified occur by the last day of the following school year.

A teacher who selects a position in a school an hour or more from the teacher's home may complete a hardship form. Should an opening occur in a school closer to the teacher's home anytime within the first semester of the following school year, the teacher shall be given the opportunity to fill that position.

If an affected teacher is not able to attend the Constriction meeting on June 10th, he/she may ask the Association to select a position.

For those teachers not affected by Constriction who are considering retirement or resignation, if you retire or resign effective the end of the school year, your medical benefits continue through August 31st.

Please contact the ACT Office with any questions concerning Constriction. As always, ACT will be monitoring the process very carefully.





# A Real Inspiration

The faculty, staff and student body of Bonner-Prendie mourn the death of Mr. William Tobin. Everyone here on campus laments the absence of an excellent instructor of English and Spanish, but - perhaps more importantly - the world suffers the loss of a devoted father, husband and brother. Mr. Tobin died prematurely at the age of 48, leaving behind his wife, two sisters, seven year old son and a body of devastated friends and colleagues. His death is a tragedy, but his life was a blessing. His enthusiasm for the subject matter he presented was infectious. A true testament to his gift as an educator is the fact that his students were upset on those days when he could not teach. As teachers, the cheers and general merrymaking that greet the announcement of a planned absence are an occupational hazard we've all come to live with. Mr. Tobin's students, however, would ask, "When will you be back?" not "How long will you be gone?" Unfortunately for all of us, he will not return. Still, his legacy is ever-present.



Mr. Tobin could teach the *un-teachable*. He had that rare capacity to make what was once "obsolete" seem a practical endeavor. It was not rare to see his students excited about scansion or conjugation. In his classroom, declension was not dull. This seemingly mystical command over the students has a simple explanation. Students succeeded because they never realized that learning took place. Mr. Tobin daily deceived his classes, achieving all his academic goals while making entertainment the primary aim of the lesson. Every class was a show. As a young teacher, I found his pedagogical philosophy inspiring and attempt, every day, to emulate his success. I still bow to the master and endeavor with great frustration to construct lessons that just came naturally to Mr. Tobin.

Skill in the classroom was one of the many things I admired in this man. More importantly, though, I admired his commitment to people. He never gave up on anyone, a real inspiration to students and faculty alike. This quality is what we'll really miss. Every week Mr. Tobin received offers - most more lucrative - to teach in different districts. Every week he turned them down, because he was proud of teaching in a Catholic school. He had great faith in the mission of Catholic education and set out to further this pursuit in his own, matchless manner. "If God made me in His own image," he'd tell his students, "then He must be hilarious." Mr. Tobin helped give faith a familiar face. He made faith cool; he made intelligence cool; and he made proving it even cooler.

You always loved a good paradox, Bill. So here you are. We're all the better for having you here and all the worse for your departure.

**Mike Wetzel**  
**Senior Delegate**

# Lancer's Local

Issues or contractual items of interest to Holy Cross H. S. (Delran N.J.)

## The Association Of Catholic Teachers

congratulates

*Joe Dvorak*

on his 25 years of service to Holy Cross High School  
of the Diocese of Trenton.

Joe was presented with a  
plaque from the  
Association of Catholic  
Teachers President,  
Rita Schwartz, at the  
School's celebration on  
April 24, 2009.



## Another Note Of Thanks !

From: John J. Reilly Scholarship Award Winners

"Each year, the Association's Executive Board awards a \$500 Scholarship to the 9th grader in each Diocesan high school and at Holy Cross who has the highest general average as of the end of the first semester. If that student is already on scholarship, it is given to the highest student not receiving financial assistance. The \$500 Scholarship is sent to each school to be applied to the student's 10th grade tuition."

Dear Ms. Schwartz,

On behalf of the administration and faculty of Lansdale Catholic High School, I extend our appreciation for the annual \$500.00 scholarship award sponsored by the Association of Catholic Teachers (Local 1776). The recognition of Jordan Janinek's scholastic achievements by the Catholic Teachers Association is an especially meaningful award to a student of his caliber.

Please accept our thanks for your generous gift.

Sincerely,  
Mr. James W. Casey  
President



## ACT Celebrates 25 and 50 Years of Service



The jubilarians (left to right): Maureen Dwyer (Father Judge), Anne Templeton (Lansdale Catholic), Br. Larry Hillearty (Conwell-Egan), Ginny Crowther (ACT Office and Benefits Manager), Patty Kuback (Saint Hubert), Bob Fitzsimmons (North Catholic), and Nora Kasper (Father Judge).

ACT Office and Benefits Manager, Ginny Crowther, receives her plaque for 25 years of devoted service to the members of the Association of Catholic Teachers and the National Association of Catholic School Teachers from ACT and NACST President, Rita Schwartz.



ACT President, Rita Schwartz, congratulates Bob Fitzsimmons of North Catholic on 50 years of dedicated service to the Secondary School System.

# Teachers in the News

The following teachers' names appeared in the April 23, 2009 edition of *The Catholic Standard and Times*:

**Nora Kasper**  
**Charles Keating**

## Father Judge students harness the power of wind

By CHRISTIE L. CHICONE  
C3&T Staff Writer

PHILADELPHIA — The school colors at Father Judge High School for Boys are blue and red, but two science classes are going green.

Environmental and physical science students at Father Judge High are building a wind turbine that will generate energy to light a memorial dedicated to alumni who have lost their lives in service to others.

Junior Mychal Dennis said the use of alternative energy piqued his interest in the project. "It is a good feeling that we are doing something productive for the environment," he said.

Senior Charles Gregghini is happy he is helping to make history at Judge for generations to come. "I think it's kind of cool that we were the first ones to do this in our high school. I feel honored to be able to leave a legacy."

They are among 20 science students — two seniors, eight juniors and 10 freshmen — who are working on the project under



**EARTH DAY ALL YEAR LONG** — Science students at Father Judge High School for Boys build a wind turbine after school hours.

the direction of their moderator, Nora Kasper, an environmental and physical science instructor at Judge.

Kasper and her student scientists are working with Unit-

ed Future, a grassroots group of young adult environmentalists from Northeast Philadelphia that promotes the sustainability of alternative energy in a community.

The goal is to introduce to other schools the wind turbine pilot program that the Judge students aptly named WATLAGE (wind activated turbine to achieve green energy).

"I want them to become — and feel as if they have the power to be — stewards of their environment," Kasper said.

"This goes beyond turning the faucet off when you brush your teeth," she said.

In her science classes, Kasper teaches students how, inside their homes, they can go above and beyond "reduce, reuse, recycle," she said.

The wind turbine project takes these lessons a step further.

The group's first meeting was in late February. If everything goes as scheduled, the work on the turbine will be completed by early May.

The memorial to alumni who lost their lives as police officers, firefighters and other service professionals will be displayed on the front lawn of the school, near a pre-existing memorial dedicated to alumni who lost their lives during the Vietnam War.

The 4-foot-tall wind turbine will operate through the propulsion of wooden blades which will drive a low-speed permanent magnet alternator to

generate, which in turn will cause floodlights in the battery to light.

"The battery is a fine source of energy," Kasper said.

The students work on the project after school hours. "They're totally committed to this," Kasper said. "To have teenagers stay after school on a Friday afternoon until 6 or 6:30 p.m. says a lot about their commitment to this project."

Although the freshmen class had the day off from school one recent Friday, the budding young scientists reported to school to work on the turbine. "I am very honored and happy to be there with them," Kasper said. "This is where education should be."

For more information, contact Father Judge High School at (215) 378-6404.

*C3&T Staff Writer Christie L. Chicone may be reached at (215) 547-2458 or [c3andts@adelphia.net](mailto:c3andts@adelphia.net).*



**GOING GREEN** — Jonathan Beuerle, a freshman physics/science student, works with copper for Father Judge High's wind turbine.

## Shanahan teacher nominated for learning award

DOWNINGTOWN — Fine Arts Department Chairperson Chuck Keating at Bishop Shanahan High School has been named a finalist representing non-public schools for the Citadel Heart of Learning Award.

Citadel and the Chester County Intermediate Unit created this program to thank local teachers and to raise awareness of the impact that their hard work and dedication have on students and the community.

Keating is one of 15 finalists nominated from the entire Chester County area for this award.



## 3rd Annual 5K Beach Challenge for Autism

Saturday, August 15, 2009

34TH Street - Ocean City, NJ

All proceeds benefit Autism Speaks

[www.autism.cfsites.org](http://www.autism.cfsites.org)

register online at [www.active.com](http://www.active.com)

Organized by: Katie Kohler (Carroll '99) Volunteers include: Kathryn Kohler  
(retired teacher from Bishop Shanahan High School), John Kohler (McDevitt '61) JJ  
Kohler (Carroll '95) Susan Kohler Burns (Carroll '97)

\* VOLUNTEERS - RUNNERS - WALKERS NEEDED \*

### MEMBER SERVICES

Members of the Association of Catholic Teachers may  
purchase discounted tickets directly from the ACT Office  
for the following attractions:

Franklin Institute Tickets --- \$13.00

AMC Movie Tickets ----- \$6.00

Regal/United Artists ---- \$6.00

Morey's Piers, Wildwood, NJ

Combination Ticket ---- \$39.00

Waterpark Ticket ----- \$26.00

National Constitution Center - \$7.50

Philadelphia Zoo ---- \$13.00



To purchase any of the tickets listed above, send a check  
payable to the Association of Catholic Teachers with a  
note indicating the ticket and the quantity being ordered.  
(Dorney Park & Caesars Pocomo Resort coupons available)



## REMINDERS

**ACT OFFICE HOURS** -- During the summer, the Office will be open between the hours of 9:30 AM and 3:30 PM.

**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. It is extremely important that we have your current address so we can update your records and keep you informed of openings as they occur.

**DENTAL AND VISION CARDS** -- If you are in need of additional dental and/or vision cards, please call the ACT Office at 215-568-4175 or e-mail your request to [nacst.nacst@verizon.net](mailto:nacst.nacst@verizon.net).

**MEDICAL CARDS** -- If you are in need of additional medical cards, please call the Office of Catholic Education at 215-587-3689 or contact the ACT Office.

**RETIREMENT INFORMATION** -- The ACT Office has put together some medical information (rates, comparison sheets and contract provisions) for teachers who are considering retirement in the near future. If you are considering an early retirement or if you will be reaching the age for normal retirement, call the ACT Office at 215-568-4175 for your retirement packet. You may also email your request to [nacst.nacst@verizon.net](mailto:nacst.nacst@verizon.net).

## BJ'S WHOLESALE CLUB UPDATE

The representative from BJ's Wholesale Club picked up the application forms on May 11, 2009.

### NEW MEMBERS

You will be receiving Activation Forms for your permanent membership card(s) within 3 to 4 weeks. Take the Activation Form to the Membership Desk at the nearest BJ's to receive your membership card(s). If you will be shopping at BJ's prior to receiving your Activation Form, call the ACT Office and we will send you a Temporary Membership Card valid through June 30, 2009.

### RENEWALS

For teachers who are renewing their membership, your current BJ's Membership Card is still valid. BJ's will take care of extending your membership systematically with the new expiration date. This process will take approximately four weeks. If your membership has or will expire within the next four weeks, please call the ACT Office and we will send you a Temporary Membership Card to use.