

Office of Catholic Schools

Superintendent's Bulletin

September 2015

High School Chaplains Meeting

The first meeting of high school chaplains will be on **Wednesday, September 2nd**, from **11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.** at the Spalding Pastoral Center in Peoria. Discussion will focus on spiritual development plans for the faculty, staff, and students during the new academic year and our diocesan religion curriculum.



Counselors' Meeting Network

Something new to the OCS calendar will be the formation of a network of counselors in our diocesan elementary and secondary schools. This network is the creation of Alleman High School counselors, Lynn VanDeHeede and Tim Granet, and is scheduled to meet on **Wednesday, September 9th, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** at the Spalding Pastoral Center in Peoria. Lunch will be provided. An invitation to send counselors to join this network and attend its first meeting will be sent to the principals this week.



High School Principals Meeting

September is a very busy month for OCS professional development, including a diocesan high school principals meeting set for **Friday, September 11th, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** at the Spalding Pastoral Center in Peoria. An agenda will be emailed this week to the principals. OCS is facilitating the meeting and will focus the dialog on topics such as teacher evaluation, vocations, OCS calendar events, budget reviews, policy questions, IHSA, advisory councils, and other **items** for which the principals may be seeking feedback. Lunch will be served.



ITBS/CogAT

Diocesan policy E-162 requires that a standardized assessment be administered to students in grades 3, 5, and 7. The Iowa Assessments created by Riverside Publishing will be given in our elementary schools during the test window of September 14-25. Any questions, please contact the Office of Catholic Schools.



Celebration of Holy Mass for the Year of Consecrated Life

Bishop Daniel Jenky, CSC, has invited representatives from our schools to attend the closing Mass for the Year of Consecrated Life at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception of Mary in Peoria on **Friday, September 18th, at 10:00 a.m.** Schools may send an entire class (grades 5-12) or a smaller representation of 5 students plus the principal and/or a classroom teacher. Due to the renovations at the Cathedral, seating will be limited; however, Bishop has asked that our students attend. After Mass, a conference is scheduled at the Spalding Pastoral Center to continue the discussion on the joy of consecrated life. Please refer to the attached flyer for more information. OCS will be contacting each diocesan middle school and high school for an accurate list of students and chaperones attending not only the Mass, but also the conference to follow.



Regional Faith Formation Workshops

The Office of Catholic Schools is facilitating regional faith formation workshops with a continuation of the theme: “teaching as a ministry.” We would like for you to have not only your teachers present, but also your staff members. Some of the DVDs that we will be sharing are focused on teaching; however, many are not. However, all of the topics highlight the importance of our role in furthering the mission of Catholic education and how we impact the lives of our students. The workshops are scheduled as follows:

- **Thursday, September 24th, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Peoria Notre Dame High School**
Region 1 Catholic Schools
- **Friday, September 25th, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., The High School of St. Thomas More**
Region 2 Catholic Schools
- **Thursday, October 8th, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Marquette High School**
Region 3 Catholic Schools
- **Friday, October 9th, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Alleman High School**
Region 4 Catholic Schools

Lunch will be provided. Dress is casual. Please contact Pat Schelp - pschelp@cdop.org - with the number who will be in attendance from each school.



Leadership Program

The Office of Catholic Schools facilitates a leadership program for each principal and assistant principal new to our diocesan schools. The **St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Leadership Program** is scheduled during four workshop days in 2015-2016:

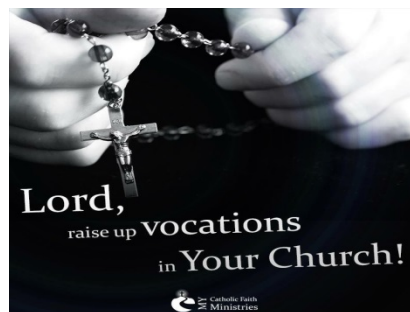
September 30, 2015	(10:00 am – 1:30 pm)
December 1, 2015	(10:00 am – 1:30 pm)
February 3, 2016	(10:00 am – 1:30 pm)
April 7, 2016	(10:00 am – 1:30 pm)

The location for the workshops is at the Spalding Pastoral Center. Lunch is provided. Dress is casual. There is no cost to attend. This year, we will be joined by potential principal candidates that have been identified by their principals as teacher leaders in their schools. If they choose to begin an administrative graduate program, they will form the *first* **Catholic Diocese of Peoria Principals' Cohort** and enroll during the fall of 2016 in the **Alliance for Catholic Education's Mary Ann Remick Leadership Program at the University of Notre Dame**. A memo and an outline of topics for the year were sent out last week. Any questions, please contact **Dr. Weiss** at sweiss@cdop.org.



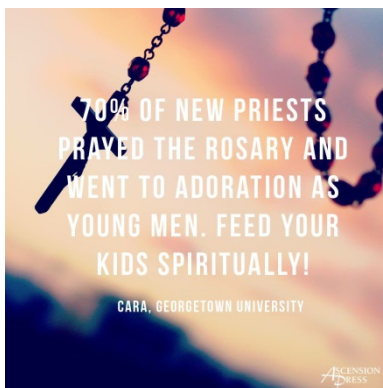
Adopt-a-Seminarian Program

Schools should be receiving the name of their “adopted” seminarian(s) this week. Mrs. Amy Chovan from the Office of Priestly Vocations met with Dr. Weiss last week and discussed the assignment of seminarians for the new academic year. The Office of Catholic Schools is grateful for all the prayers, gifts, cards, and well wishes that you have so generously shared with our diocesan seminarians in the past three years. When OCS presented at the seminarian summer retreat, the feedback was very positive regarding this program and the joy that the program gave to our future priests. Thank you!



A Message from the Office of Priestly Vocations

The Bishop named two new vocations' directors in June 2015. **Fr. Pat Henehan** is the in charge of the seminarians' formation while remaining at St. Jude Catholic Parish in Peoria. **Fr. Tim Hepner** is the full-time Director of Vocations for Recruitment. He is tasked with travelling around the Diocese promoting vocations and would like to visit as many schools as possible. If you would like to contact Fr. Hepner to come and present an all-school assembly, be part of a retreat, speak to a class, help setup a vocations fair, or just come visit with your children, you can email him at fr_hepner@cdop.org. Fr. Hepner is happy to support our Catholic Schools and collaborate with us to promote vocations.



Novena to St. Thérèse

Bishop Jenky is asking *all* Catholics in the Diocese to pray the **Novena to St. Therese** beginning on **September 23rd** and going until **October 1st**, for the intention of having more priests after the **Sacred Heart of Jesus** for the Catholic Diocese of Peoria. Please lead your school in this prayer. It could be done school-wide at the beginning of each day or in each religion class. This is also an excellent opportunity to talk to your students about vocations to the priesthood and religious life, noting that there are definitely students from each school who are called to these vocations. Thank you.



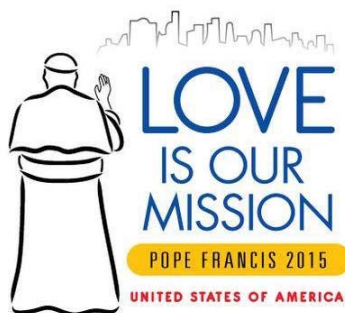
ISBE Office of Nonpublic Schools

OCS strongly recommends that each diocesan school be included on the e-mail distribution list from Dr. Gary Greene, Principal Consultant, at ISBE. Dr. Greene is sending regular communications that are pertinent to our nonpublic schools' recognition status as well as several policy updates. The new website for this information is <http://www.isbe.net/nonpublic/default.htm>. If you have not signed up, please do so TODAY.

www.isbe.net

Pope Francis's 2015 Visit to the United States

The presence of Pope Francis at the **World Meeting of Families** in the U.S. on **September 22-27** will be a joyful moment for millions of Catholics and people of good will. The hope is that the Holy Father's visit will inspire families in their mission of love. For more information and resources, visit the **United States Council of Catholic Bishops** website (www.usccb.org).



Catechetical Sunday 2015

This year, the Church will celebrate Catechetical Sunday on **September 20, 2015** and will focus on the theme, "**Safeguarding the Dignity of Every Human Person.**" Catechetical Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role that each person plays, by virtue of Baptism, in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel. Resources are available at usccb.org.



This 'n That

- Check the OCS website and refer to the [Administrative Checklist](#) by month and the [Deadline for Forms](#) by month.
- Reminder to check into having a police liaison for your school this year to serve as a resource and point of contact.
- Whenever you have a legal question for which you are seeking Ms. Gibson's advice and guidance, please send a quick email to Dr. Weiss at sweiss@cdop.org as she needs to be aware of what is going on in your school, too. Thank you.
- Look for an email from Melissa Block with Catholic Mutual regarding *defensive driving* updates.
- Patti Carmody, paralegal with CDOP, needs to [review all contracts](#). Her email address is pcarmody@cdop.org.
- Any overnight school-sponsored trips need to be **e-mailed to Dr. Weiss** for her approval **prior** to departure.

Welcome, ACE Teaching Fellows!

The 22nd Cohort of the **Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) Teaching Fellows** was formed this past spring and for the first time, these teachers are in our Diocese! Upon the completion of their 2-year program internship, they will receive a Master's Degree in Education from the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana. The Fellows are teaching at Peoria Notre Dame High School and St. Mark School in Peoria. We are very excited and most blessed to have this partnership with ACE and a *note of gratitude goes to Bishop Jenky* who made this connection a reality.



Left to right...

Luke Janicki and Maddie Basil (St. Mark School) & Patty Yoritomo and Jimmy Kelly (Peoria Notre Dame High School)