

January 2017



FEATURED PASTOR

Rev. Michal Lewon



*Photo courtesy of
St. Colette School Facebook page*

Fr. Michal is the pastor of St. Colette Parish in Rolling Meadows (August 2016 - present). He previously was an associate pastor of St. Christina Parish in Chicago, St. Agnes Parish in Chicago Heights and St. Mary Parish in River-side.

Fr. Michal was born and raised in Poland. The Lewon family spent two years in the early 1990s in Chicago attending St. Wenceslaus Parish. Fr. Michal returned to Poland, but soon returned to attend St. Joseph College Seminary and Mundelein Seminary. His dedication to Catholic education can be seen when he takes time to teach a lesson at a Catholic school or attending school functions, especially sporting events.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



OCS PASTORS' UPDATE

WELCOME FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Pastors,

Welcome to the second edition of the Pastors' Update from the Office of Catholic Schools (OCS). I hope this update contains valuable information in your work with the Catholic schools of the Archdiocese. As always, know you are welcome to contact me or any member of my staff at any time.

I am pleased to report that work continues on the Strategic Plan for Catholic Schools. In the last few weeks, I've had a chance to speak to the Archdiocesan Presbyteral Council, the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council, and other gatherings around the Archdiocese. Our plan is mostly complete, although we are still vetting and finalizing several goals and initiatives. We expect the plan to be complete in the late spring, and you will be sent a final version of the plan. As the release of the plan approaches, I remain extremely confident for the future of our schools. While challenges persist, I know that our plan will provide us with clarity, confidence, and optimism for the future!

Yours in Christ,

Jim Rigg, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Catholic Schools
Archdiocese of Chicago

39th Annual Archdiocesan African American Prayer Service

We are excited to host our 39th Annual Archdiocesan African American Prayer Service on February 24, 2017, from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m., at Holy Name Cathedral. Catholic schools are invited to send a delegation of students in grades 6 – 12, to this sacred event centered on Christ revealed in the richness of diversity, the beauty of unity, and the power of storytelling. Please encourage your principals to send a group of students to this formative prayer service. Schools may register for the prayer service by contacting Bob Rabe at rrabe@archchicago.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 1/29 - 2/4: NCEA Catholic Schools Week
- 2/3: NCEA Teacher Appreciation Day
- 2/13: Catholic Schools Today Radio Show
- 2/20: President's Day (OCS Closed)
- 2/23: Principal Leadership Day
- 2/24: African American Heritage Prayer Service

Spotlight on Schools

- Catholic Schools Today December 2016 and January 2017 Radio Show
- \$1 Million Grant from CME Group Foundation to Launch Innovative Personalized Learning Program
- Immaculate Conception School (Talcott) and St. Monica Academy's pre-schools were named top 17 preschools by Expertise
- St. Michael School in Orland Park Enhances Education by Incorporating Ivy League Programs
- Ms. Kelley from St. Andrew School receives the 2017 'Iditarod Teacher on the Trail' Honor
- A Day in the Life of a Cristo Rey St. Martin Student , a short documentary, was awarded an Emmy.

February 23 Leadership Day

This all day meeting is required for all Archdiocesan elementary school principals. The meeting will be held at St. Joseph High School in Westchester, 10900 W. Cermak Road. The keynote speaker will be Jan Hoegh one of the authors of A School Leader's Guide to Standards-based Grading who will focus her presentation on the AdvancedED Improvement Priority: "Improve the consistency of curricular expectations and grading and reporting of student performance across the system."

The Principal Leadership Days are held four times per year and are an opportunity for OCS to share important information and updates with principals, as well as facilitate discussions with all principals.

Teacher Performance Webinar

A webinar for principals focused on addressing teacher performance issues in anticipation of FY18 contracts will take place today, Thursday, January 26 from 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. OCS, HR and Legal Services have collaborated on this webinar. [Registration](#) is still open. The webinar will be recorded and available for those who want to view it.

DePaul University and Facing History and Ourselves Collaboration



We invite all principals and pastors to attend the screening of [I Learn America: Creating Cultures of Belonging in Schools](#) on Tuesday, February 14 from 6-8 p.m. The screening and interactive discussion focuses on a young immigrants' and newcomers' experiences in today's schools and society.

New Catechetical Certification Process

As indicated in the December Update, we have introduced a new catechetical certification process that is offered through the online platform, My Catholic Faith Delivered. The Office of Catholic Schools requires all full-time and part-time teachers, Catholic and non-Catholic, to seek Level I Catechetical Certification, which involves a series of online courses and retreat focused on spiritual, theological and ministerial formation. Click on this link to find out further information regarding our [certification requirements and coursework](#).

Office of Catholic Schools