

July 2017

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



OCS PASTORS' UPDATE

WELCOME FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

FEATURED PASTOR



In Memoriam Rev. Ron Lewinski

Fr. Ron Lewinski passed away unexpectedly on July 19, 2017. Fr. Lewinski, Mundelein ordination class of 1972, was the Co-Director of the Department of Parish Vitality and Mission. Fr. Lewinski was well known for his expertise in liturgy, the RCIA and parish life. Before joining the Department of Parish Vitality and Mission, he was pastor of St. Mary of the Annunciation Parish in Mundelein.

Fr. Lewinski was a Catholic school supporter. He helped with the creation and opening of the first Archdiocesan middle school, Frassati Catholic Academy (see the above photo from the 2010/11 school year). In 2011, National Catholic Educational Association honored him with the Distinguished Pastor of the Year. He most recently served as the President for Mission at Frassati Catholic Academy. He also celebrated the Commissioning Mass for our new principals earlier this month.

Dear Pastors,

We are swiftly approaching the start of the new school year! Within the next few weeks, students will once again fill the halls and classrooms of our school buildings. We have many reasons to celebrate Catholic school education in the Archdiocese. In the coming year, I am particularly excited to release our new strategic plan for Catholic schools. As you know, all school pastors are invited to attend the unveiling meeting with the principals on Thursday, August 3. This meeting will take place at St. Ignatius College Prep at 12:45 p.m. You are also invited at noon for a lunch ahead of the presentation. If you would like to attend but have not yet RSVP'd, please contact Marcela Bermudez at mbermudez@archchicago.org as soon as possible.

We are also incorporating the theme of "We Are One Body" in the new school year. Throughout the year, we will reflect upon how all of us are part of a unified body in ministry, as well as part of the greater Body of Christ to those we serve. Thank you for your leadership and support. I look forward to another great year!

Yours in Christ,

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

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
2017/18 SCHOOL YEAR



UPCOMING EVENTS

August 3: Leadership Day

August 14: Catholic Schools Today Radio Show

August 14-18: System-Wide Professional Development

August 15: Feast of the Assumption

August 30: Care of Students with Diabetes Workshop

SPOTLIGHT ON SCHOOLS

- [July 10, 2017 Catholic Schools Today radio show](#)
- [Phyllis Cavallone-Jurek named 2017 National Distinguished Principal](#)
- [Marist High School administrators and some staff went on a pilgrimage to Lyon, France where the Marist Brothers began](#)
- [Pope John Paul II School summer camp had Aztec Dancers this week](#)
- [St. Thomas the Apostle School has received their Chromebooks for 4th and 5th graders](#)
- [St. Francis Xavier School \(Wilmette\) Principal learns with two SFX alums at University of Notre Dame during a summer learning program](#)
- [St. Edward School purchased and installed two water fountain/bottle refill stations this summer](#)

New School Board Member Orientation Sessions

The Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic Schools is pleased to be offering a series of special orientation sessions for new elementary school board members who are beginning their terms in the fall of 2017. There is a session scheduled in each Vicariate, however, participants can choose the dates/times and locations that work best for them. Below is a listing of the various sessions new members can choose from:

- Thursday, August 17, 7 - 9 p.m. at Pope John Paul II - Vicariate III, Chicago
- Saturday, August 19, 9 - 11 a.m. at the Meyer Center - Vicariate VI, Chicago
- Monday, August 21, 7 - 9 p.m. at St. Paul of the Cross - Vicariate II, Park Ridge
- Wednesday, August 23, 7 - 9 p.m. at St. Emily - Vicariate I, Mt. Prospect
- Tuesday, August 29, 7 - 9 p.m. at St. Giles - Vicariate IV, Oak Park
- Thursday, August 31, 7 - 9 p.m. at St. Patricia - Vicariate V, Hickory Hills

Topics will include mission-based leadership, roles and responsibilities of board members, and school board best practices. Participants will leave with a better understanding of how to effectively serve on the school board to promote the continued growth and success of their school.

Participants must register in advance using this [registration form](#). All who register will receive an email reminder along with any special instructions about the session closer to the event.

If you have any questions or are in need of more information, please contact Dr. Maria Hawk at Maria.Hawk@archchicago.org.

Catechetical Certification Update

We had a very exciting 2016/17 school year with the launch of the new online certification program, My Catholic Faith Delivered. As indicated in a previous Pastors' Update, the Office of Catholic Schools required all teachers, full-time and part-time, Catholic and non-Catholic, under a teaching contract to achieve level I certification by August 1, 2017. We are happy to report that 2,093 teachers are currently working toward Level I and Level II certification. Additionally, 1,005 teachers are certified catechists engaged in Level III ongoing formation. We will continue to work with our teachers, especially those who teach religion, to become certified catechists. Thank you for your support throughout this past school year in helping our teachers deepen their faith through the new certification program.

Office of Catholic Schools

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