

September 2017

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



OCS PASTORS' UPDATE

WELCOME FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

FEATURED PASTOR



Paul Whittington, O.P.

Fr. Paul Whittington was ordained on May 10, 1997. He has held many roles since becoming a priest. He currently is the pastor of St. Margaret of Scotland on the southside of Chicago. He is active in promoting the parish and school within the community. He is also very active in strengthening the community.

He has been invaluable to the school. He has helped select a new principal. He has encouraged many teachers and countless students.

Dear Pastors,

The fall is a joyous time in Catholic education, as we welcome back students into our classrooms. We have many reasons to celebrate this year! I'm pleased to report that the new Strategic Plan for Catholic Schools has been released. Copies of the Executive Summary of this plan will be distributed to all priests at the upcoming Priest Day on October 3. In the meantime, you can view the Executive Summary on our [website](#). I encourage you to read this summary carefully, and share it with other important stakeholders in your community (e.g. School Board members, parish council members, etc.). If you have any questions or feedback about the plan, you are very welcome to contact me.

In addition, we continue to develop our strategy for implementing tax credit scholarships. Our strategy is taking shape, and you will hear far more about this in the weeks to come. In the meantime, I encourage you to continue to be patient and await more information. You are also welcome to contact me about tax credits.

Thank you for your leadership and partnership in Catholic education. May God bless our efforts this school year!

Yours in Christ,

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

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
2017/18 SCHOOL YEAR

WE ARE  ONE BODY

UPCOMING EVENTS

- October 5: Leadership Day
- October 6: Eucharistic Holy Hour/Day of Adoration
- October 6: *Soup-er Stadium Challenge* Conclusion
- October 9: Columbus Day (OCS Open)
- October 8: Catholic Schools Today Radio Show
- October 18: NCEA Fall Survey Due
- October 20: Holy Fire Chicago
- October 31: Halloween

SPOTLIGHT ON SCHOOLS

- [Catholic Schools Today September 2017 Radio Show](#)
- [Trinity High School journalism students receive Chicago Tribune boardroom access](#)
- [St. Albert the Great School teachers receive blessing on Catechetical Sunday](#)
- [Bridgeport Catholic Academy's seventh graders celebrate #PeaceDay at Daley Plaza](#)
- [St. Hubert School kicks off #SouperStadiumChallenge](#)
- [St. Zachary's preschool students pray to end hunger](#)
- [DePaul College Prep helps St. Rita High School when bus breaks down before a soccer match](#)



HOLY FIRE

Holy Fire

We encourage all pastors to invite their principals to send students in grades 6-8 to the second annual Holy Fire experience on Friday, October 20 from 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. or Saturday, October 21 from 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the UIC Pavilion. Holy Fire is a one-day experience for young people and includes dynamic speakers, music, and the sacrament of Eucharist. Young people will be called to embrace their Baptism and engage with the relevant and powerful message of Jesus. Holy Fire can serve as a Confirmation retreat due to its strong invitation to reflect deeply on the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Please refer to the [Holy Fire FAQ Sheet](#) for further information regarding registration and fees. If you have additional questions contact dpvm@archchicago.org.

(re)ENCOUNTER

Young Adult Faith Night



(re)ENCOUNTER: Young Adult Faith Night

Are you looking for ways to engage young adults in your parish and school in the faith life of the Church? Invite your young adults to attend (re)ENCOUNTER where thousands of young adults will gather together on Friday, October 20, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. at the UIC Pavilion for a night of live music, laughter, and meaningful conversations that will remind them they are not alone in their faith. Cardinal Blase J. Cupich will host a number of special guests, including Mark Wahlberg, actor, producer, and committed Catholic, for a discussion on the importance of repentance and rebirth, how Mr. Wahlberg discovered truth through his own reconciliation in the Catholic faith, and the role the Bible and Jesus Christ play in his everyday life. Visit the [Parish Vitality and Mission's \(re\)ENCOUNTER event page](#) for more information and for registration information.

Office of Catholic Schools

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