

March 2017

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



FEATURED PASTOR



Rev. Paul Stein

Fr. Paul Stein was ordained in 2001 at Mundelein Seminary. His home parish as a child was St. Hubert's in Hoffman Estates.

Fr. Paul has served as an administrator at St. Catherine Laboure in Glenview, pastor at St. Sylvester in Chicago and rector at St. Joseph Seminary. He is the current pastor of St. Frances of Rome in Cicero.

He is fluent in Spanish which was helpful when he served at St. Sylvester and St. Frances of Rome.

Fr. Paul is passionate about priestly vocations and the liturgy. "It's important to encourage men to ask what God wants of them in their life. A personal invitation is a powerful way to encourage a person to ponder a vocation to the priesthood."

OCS PASTORS' UPDATE

WELCOME FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Pastors,

Spring is an exciting time in the life of a school. As we transition toward the end of the school year, we are also in the final stages of putting together our next Strategic Plan for Catholic Schools. Our hope is to release the yet-unnamed plan by the end of May. This plan represents many months of data gathering, analysis, and consultation. I know that our Strategic Plan will represent a clear and optimistic roadmap for the future. Be assured that all school pastors will receive copies of the final plan and we will be in continued communication as the plan is implemented.

In the meantime, please contact me if you have any questions or comments.

Principal Contracts

By now, you should have received a letter describing how and when to offer contracts to your school principal. Please note that contracts must be offered by April 22. If you have any questions about this process, please contact your Regional Director. For a copy of the letter, [click here](#).

Yours in Christ,

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

The Way of the Cross

OCS is asking schools to consider participating in the Way of the Cross in Downtown Chicago on Good Friday, April 14, 2017. More information is available by [clicking on this link](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

4/7 - System-wide Professional Development

4/9 - Palm Sunday

4/10 - Catholic Schools Today Radio Show

4/14 - Good Friday (OCS Closed)

4/16 - Easter Sunday

4/17 - OCS Closed

4/18 - AMEN Webinar

4/21 - I-20 International Students' Workshop

Fr. Tolton Essay Contest

The Archdiocese of Chicago Black Catholic Initiative has invited Catholic school students to participate in the annual Fr. Tolton Essay Contest. Students are asked to respond to the following question in 500 – 1,500 words: *What would Fr. Tolton say to Catholics regarding living a faith that unites peoples?* All essays should be submitted to Black Catholic Initiative at BCI@archchicago.org by Sunday, April 9, 2017 (Palm Sunday). The first prize winner will receive a 32 GB tablet and the second prize will receive 16 GB tablet. Click on [this link](#) for further information.

Spotlight on Schools

- [Congratulations to Phyllis Cavallone on being named the 2017 Stanley C. Golder Award for Excellence in Leadership](#)
- [St. Matthias School featured in NCEA Talk](#)
- [Students from School of St. Mary enjoyed the Art Institute](#)
- [Augustus Tolton Catholic Academy hosted a successful Family Art Night](#)
- [St. Giles Exodus Project](#)
- [Christ Our Savior students dissect frogs](#)
- [Students from Notre Dame College Prep and Resurrection College Prep celebrate Fr. Dan McCarthy's golden jubilee](#)
- [St. John Berchman celebrates Read Across American and Dr. Seuss Day](#)

Teacher Survey and Teacher Focus Groups

As a part of the development of our new Strategic Plan for Archdiocesan Schools, the Kellogg School of Management is facilitating a survey of teachers as a part of their study of teacher recruitment and retention in Archdiocesan schools. Last week principals received an [email](#) explaining the survey and a link to distribute the [survey to all teachers](#) (full-time and part-time) in their schools. The Kellogg School of Management will also be conducting focus groups with Archdiocesan teachers on Friday, April 7. Kellogg will be facilitating 20-30 minute focus group sessions beginning at 8:30 a.m. that will end early in the afternoon. Both the teacher survey and teacher focus groups will allow our teachers to provide valuable input for the new Strategic Plan for Archdiocesan Schools.

Continuous Improvement/AdvancED

Schools that had a School Improvement Review will have the findings from the review team on or before April 21. Principals will be notified by email when the report is available.

Principal Leadership Days

The agenda with notes from our February 23 Principal Leadership Day can be accessed through [this link](#). Our final Principal Leadership Day will be held at Cardinal Joseph Bernardin Elementary School in Orland Hills on May 4, 2017.

Office of Catholic Schools