

MAY 2017

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



## OCS PASTORS' UPDATE

### FEATURED PASTOR



### Rev. Avitus Rukuratwa Kiiguta

Fr. Kiiguta was born and raised in Bukoba, Tanzania. He is the sixth of eleven children from a strong Catholic family. As a young child, he was an altar server and choir member. As a sixth grader, he joined the minor seminary and went on to a high school seminary. He went on to study at Consolata Institute of Philosophy in Nairobi, Kenya.

In August 2000, he joined the Archdiocese of Chicago and spent one year at Tuite House located at St. Columbanus. He studied at University of St. Mary of Lake/Mundelein Seminary where he founded an African choir. He was ordained on May 20, 2006. He served as an associate pastor at Sacred Heart in Winnetka for almost five years before becoming pastor to St. John de la Salle Parish.

### WELCOME FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Pastors,

May is a busy month in the life of a school, with numerous end-of-year activities and events. May is also a time of celebration, as we celebrate the many accomplishments of our students, teachers, and staff throughout the school year. The OCS recently released a video to thank our pastors for their leadership and support as part of NCEA's National Pastor Appreciation Day. If you haven't seen the video, I invite you to view it via [this link](#).

Remember that the OCS remains open throughout the summer. If you have any ongoing needs, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

#### *SCHOOL STRATEGIC PLAN*

We are very pleased to announce that the Strategic Plan for Catholic Schools is complete! However, we have decided to wait until early August for the plan's official release. By doing so, the plan's unveiling will not be overshadowed by the numerous school activities at the end of the year. In the coming days, you will receive a mailed invitation to attend a presentation on the strategic plan. This presentation will take place on August 3, 2017 at St. Ignatius College Prep. The presentation will include a detailed overview of the goals and initiatives of the strategic plan. More information can be found in the mailed invitation. Principals will be invited separately.

#### *PRAYER FOR PEACE*

Thank you for your participation in the [Archdiocesan Prayer for Peace](#) on Tuesday, May 23! Over 76,000 Catholic school students, along with approximately 7,500 adults, joined together to pray for a fostering of peace in our region. If you have not already done so, please post the "Praying for a Peaceful Summer" banner outside your school. If you have misplaced your banner, you should contact Anne Maselli at [amaselli@archchicago.org](mailto:amaselli@archchicago.org). May Christ's peace grow in our hearts, homes, and neighborhoods this summer!

#### *TEACHER AND PRINCIPAL CONTRACTS*

As per the last Pastor's Update, if you have any needs related to teacher or principal contracts for the 2017/2018 school year, please contact your Regional Director or DVO. Remember teacher contracts should not be offered until after budgets have been reviewed by OCS and the Finance Department.

#### *SCHOOL SUMMER OFFICE HOURS*

We have asked that all Catholic schools offer regular hours throughout the months of summer. Many families choose to register during the summer, and it is important that office personnel be accessible. Principals have been asked to announce summer hours on their website and office voicemail. School offices need not be open all day, every day, but should be open based upon a locally-defined schedule. Likewise, principals are asked to be accessible via cell phone throughout the summer.

Yours in Christ,

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

May 29: Memorial Day  
(OCS Closed)

June 7: High School  
Luncheon

June 12: Catholic Schools  
Today Radio Show on  
Relevant Radio 950 AM

June 14: Flag Day

June 15: Last Day of  
Contractual Year for Teachers

June 18: Father's Day

## SPOTLIGHT ON SCHOOLS

- During the Week of the Young Child (April 24-28) we featured early childhood staff from [St. Matthias School](#), [St. Athanasius School](#), [Maternity BVM School](#), [St. Patrick School](#), [Our Lady of Grace School](#), [St. Benedict Preparatory Schools](#), and [St. Walter School](#)
- [Congratulations to the 2017 Heart of the School award winners](#)
- [Infant Jesus of Prague School hosts Annual Kindergarten Mother's Tea](#)
- [Alphonsus Academy eighth graders receive t-shirts representing the high school they will attend](#)
- [Most Holy Redeemer School celebrates Rev. Adamich's birthday](#)
- [Fenwick High School welcomed return of long-lost statue](#)
- [Seventh grade student from Holy Family Catholic Academy placed third in the CCHD National Art Competition](#)
- [Catholic Consortium of Lake County prays the rosary](#)

## A Binding Commitment Professional Development Program

The Office of Catholic Schools in partnership with the Anti-Defamation League invites all pastors, DREs, principals, and teachers of grades 6-12 to participate in our annual professional development program – *A Binding Commitment* – a two-day opportunity, Friday, August 4 and Monday, August 7, to explore the history of Catholic Christian relations with our Jewish brothers and sisters. The two-day event includes the following:

- an overview of Catholic teaching regarding ecumenical dialogue and religious pluralism;
- a brief history of anti-Semitism;
- an experience of a Shabbat service on Lake Michigan at North Shore Congregation Israel;
- dinner with a Holocaust survivor;
- a full-day visit to the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center where participants learn about a Holocaust and modern-day genocide curriculum entitled, *Echoes and Reflection*.

This life-changing and pedagogically enhancing professional development program is applicable to all academic disciplines, especially religion, social studies, and history. Previous participants continue to attest to the transformative nature of this two-day professional development experience on both a personal and collective level. Please click on the following links to access: [A Binding Commitment Letter and Echoes Overview](#), [A Binding Commitment Flyer](#), [Echoes and Reflection Flyer](#), and [A Binding Commitment Application](#). If you have further questions or would like to register, please contact [Bob Rabe](#).

## Principal Leadership Day

The Office of Catholic Schools held our final Principal Leadership Day of the 2016/17 school year on May 4. Links to the agenda for the morning/afternoon sessions with plus/deltas, the PPT presentation from both sessions and the Danielson Framework for Teaching: Domains 1-4 are available on the OCS Resource Portal's page: [Archdiocese Leadership Days](#).

During the Leadership Day, Teaching Together Chicago presented regarding its program that provides adults with cognitive disabilities employment opportunities. Our hope is to get more participants in the program placed as aides within our Catholic schools. To learn more about the program, please view the [Teaching Together video](#).

## Teacher Evaluation Pilot Cohort FY18

Principals who have successfully completed the Danielson training (earning a rating of "Proficient") are invited to participate in the pilot of the revised teacher evaluation process during the 2017/18 school year. **Principals are asked to complete the following application form for the pilot:** <http://bit.ly/2r0qzLz> Deadline for the application is Friday, June 2.

Principals who want to participate in the pilot have an opportunity to complete the training this summer. OCS is encouraging principals of schools involved in Turnaround and PIP (Parish Improvement Program) efforts to participate in the FY18 Danielson cohort. Notification of acceptance into the pilot will be communicated to applicants no later than Tuesday, June 6. Mandatory implementation training will be held on August 2 (Quigley Pastoral Center) or August 8 (Meyer Center). Principals attend one session. This training session will be approximately 3-4 hours. Participation in the pilot requires all observations/evaluations of teacher performance to be completed using the Danielson Framework for Teaching and the revised AoC teacher evaluation instrument and process. The Teacher Evaluation Committee is completing final revisions to the teacher evaluation instrument based on feedback from the May 4 Leadership Day and the Curriculum Advisory Committee. Revisions will be finalized and communicated to those who want to participate in the pilot by Monday, June 12.

Office of Catholic Schools

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