

August 2017

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



## OCS PASTORS' UPDATE

### FEATURED PASTOR



### Rev. James Merold

Fr. James Merold was ordained at the age of 25. He has served at St. Gilbert in Grayslake, Prince of Peace in Lake Villa, Queen of Peace in North Chicago, St. Philomena in Chicago, St. Gabriel in Chicago, and St. Bede in Ingleside. He is an active musician who plays the piano and organ. He is the current parish administrator at St. Patrick in Wadsworth. He was the Director of Pastoral Care at St. Therese Hospital in Waukegan for about six years.

Last year, Fr. Merold helped St. Patrick School celebrate their 60th anniversary. It was a special day, as he was part of the first graduating class from St. Patrick School

### WELCOME FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Pastors,

The 2017/2018 School Year is well underway! I'm certain you share my joy as we welcome over 78,000 students back into the 215 Catholic schools of the Archdiocese.

My thanks to all pastors who attended the presentation about the Catholic Schools' Strategic Plan on August 3. We are in the final stages of launching the plan and will have the Executive Summary posted on our website shortly. I am grateful for the many insights and questions you shared while the plan was being constructed.

Finally, I strongly encourage your parish and school to participate in a special effort taking place this year to combat hunger insecurity. We are attempting to collect over 100,000 food items for Catholic Charities Food Pantries through the *Soup-er Stadium Challenge*. More information about this important information can be found on the next page.

As always, I am enormously grateful for your partnership on behalf of our schools. Great things are ahead for us!

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

September 4: Labor Day (OCS Closed)

September 11: Catholic Schools Today Radio Show on Relevant Radio

September 12: *Soup-er Stadium Challenge* Kick-off Event

September 13: AMEN webinar

September 16: Mexican Independence Day

September 20: Principal New Leaders Meeting

September 22: System-wide Professional Development Day

## SPOTLIGHT ON SCHOOLS

- [Catholic Schools Today August 2017 Radio Show](#)
- [Natalie Wisniowski from St. William School competed in the North American Youth Chess Championship in Fields under 12 and placed fifth](#)
- [St. Eugene School teachers attend Google Summit](#)
- [St. Alphonsus/St. Patrick School welcomes new families by delivering welcome bags to new students](#)
- [Marist High School alumna, Shonda Rhimes '87, will be receiving a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame](#)
- [St. Thomas the Apostle School alumna, Ashley McCann '99, has gone on to much success including serving as the team physician for the U.S. Women's soccer team](#)

# SOUP-ER STADIUM CHALLENGE

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### *Soup-er Stadium Challenge*

The Archdiocese of Chicago and Catholic Charities is excited to announce the *Soup-er Stadium Challenge* that will take place September 12 – October 6, 2017. The *Soup-er Stadium Challenge* invites Catholic schools, Archdiocesan Pastoral Centers, and Catholic Charities to collect enough food to fill the seats of Soldier Field twice in order to stock Catholic Charities food pantries during the upcoming winter months. We have designed an Archdiocesan food insecurity curriculum for Religion that coordinates with our *Soup-er Stadium Challenge*. While it is integral to the Gospel call to attend to the charitable action of giving food or meeting an immediate need, it is imperative that our school communities engage in an in-depth exploration of the reality of food insecurity and heed Jesus' words: "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink...Amen, I say to you, what you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me" (Mt. 25:35-40).

The food insecurity curriculum is a deep response to our 2017/18 school year theme of "We Are One Body." This theme calls us to care for the entire Body of Christ, especially those without a voice and marginalized by poverty and hunger. Our relationship with Jesus Christ in the Eucharist, "the source and summit of the Christian life" (Lumen Gentium, 11), reminds us that our abundance impels us to respond to the reality of hunger and scarcity. This curriculum is meant to provide an overview of Catholic social teaching as it applies to those who suffer from food insecurity in a manner that seeks a holistic approach to both charity and systemic change. The food insecurity curriculum can be found on the OCS portal. If you have further questions please contact Bob Rabe at [rrabe@archchicago.org](mailto:rrabe@archchicago.org).

### Tax Credit Scholarships

Please be sure to review the letter from Dr. Rigg sent on August 30, 2017 via the Vicar General's office regarding new Illinois education funding bill that includes tax credit scholarships. The Archdiocese is working to finalize a strategy of how best to approach tax credit scholarships. We will share more information in the coming days and weeks. In the meantime if you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Dr. Rigg.

Office of Catholic Schools

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