

February 2017

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



OCS PASTORS' UPDATE

FEATURED PASTOR

Rev. Matthew Foley



Fr. Matt is the current pastor of St. James in Arlington Heights. He is the former pastor of St. Agnes of Bohemia in Little Village and Santiago Apostol in the Sierra Madre Mountains in Mexico. He is a former U.S. Army military chaplain who served four combat deployments to Afghanistan.

Fr. Matt was ordained at Mundelein in 1989. His first assignment was St. Agatha on Chicago's west side. He was involved in creating S.A.F.E. (St. Agatha Family Empowerment) which is still around.

WELCOME FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Pastors,

Catholic Schools Week was a great success this year! I've heard very positive feedback about our unified Open House Day on January 29, and I was privileged to participate in several joyful events during the week. We have many reasons to celebrate in our Catholic schools. As always, I am grateful for your leadership and support of Catholic education.

We are now entering a very busy time of year. This update provides you with many important pieces of information. Please carefully read the items below. If you have any questions, know that you are welcome to contact our office at any time.

SCHOOLS STRATEGIC PLAN

We continue to make progress on our emerging Strategic Plan for Catholic Schools. The plan will represent a comprehensive and optimistic roadmap of school-related goals for the next 3-5 years. We are in the midst of finalizing our goals, and expect to unveil the plan in the spring. For the past several weeks, we have spoken with several consultative groups in the Archdiocese about the plan, such as the Archdiocesan Presbyteral Council, the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council, the Archdiocesan Principals' Association, among others. If you have questions about the plan, or would like to know more, please contact your Regional Director or Dr. Rigg.

PRINCIPAL HIRING

In early February, principals were asked to submit an Intent to Return form indicating whether they wish to return for the coming school year. You should have received a copy of this form. If you anticipate needing a principal for the 2017/2018 school year (for any reason), please contact your assigned Regional Director or Dr. Rigg. If you are planning not to ask your principal to return, remember that the Superintendent's permission is required before finalizing and communicating this decision to the principal.

CONTRACTS AND SALARY SCALES

The Office of Human Resources recently released the Teacher and Principal Salary Scales for the 2017/2018 school year. These can be found on the [Human Resources' Administrators Home](#) website. The password to access the document is **archdiocese1**.

We are finalizing the teacher and principal contract templates for 2017/2018 and expect to release them soon. Remember that principals must be offered a contract by March 15, 2017 (as indicated in their existing contract). Teachers cannot be offered their contract until your parish/school budget has been submitted and reviewed.

Yours in Christ,

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

2/24: African American Heritage Prayer Service

3/5: Ash Wednesday

3/12: Daylight Savings Time

3/13: Catholic Schools Today Radio Show

3/14: AMEN Webinar

Spotlight on Schools

- Catholic Schools Week involved many successful events: [St. Constance's Dance-A-Thon](#), [BCA's Grandparents Day](#), [St. Albert the Great's Disney on Ice field trip](#), [St. Joseph's \(Homewood\) fourth and fifth grade learned First Aid](#), [St. Joan of Arc's bottle flipping contest](#), [St. Bartholomew's Readers Day](#) and [St. John Berchmans makes blessing bags](#)
- [Third grader Raul from St. Anastasia School met Mayor Barrett of Milwaukee and spoke at their Unity in Human Dignity rally](#)
- Many of our schools celebrated their 100th day of school: [Most Holy Redeemer School](#), [St. Nicholas of Tolentine School](#) and [St. Odilo School](#)
- [St. Therese School celebrates the Lunar New Year](#)
- [St. Jerome students learn about taking care of their teeth during Dental Health Month](#)
- [Math isn't a spectator sport for Saint Viator High School Cheryl Nowak](#)

February 23 Leadership Day

Principals from all elementary and high schools in the Archdiocese will gather at St. Joseph High School in Westchester on Thursday, February 23 for the third Principal Leadership Day of the 2016/17 school year. The Leadership Day will include a presentation from Ms. Jan Hoegh from Marzano Research regarding improving the "Consistency of Curricular Expectations and Grading and Reporting of Student Performance across the System," as well as Q&A session with Pastoral Center employees. HR and Legal Services will be present at the meeting to respond to questions about personnel issues, performance issues, parent/handbook issues, etc. Additionally, Dr. Rigg will provide a Superintendent's Update regarding Renew My Church, the Schools Strategic Plan and other important news. Notes from the Leadership Day will be shared in the March Pastor Update.

Catholic Identity in our Schools

Our Catholic schools are communities of deep encounter with Christ through the various traditions and liturgical seasons of the year. An integral component of this deep encounter with Christ is a visually rich and religiously formative classroom that roots the teachers and students in the liturgical cycle. As we approach the upcoming season of Lent we are inviting our principals and teachers to further actualize the Catholic Identity of their schools and classrooms by decorating with the color purple, displaying images of the Passion and Stations of the Cross, highlighting Saints devoted to the Passion, and emphasizing the Lenten practices of Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. As the shepherds of our parishes and schools, please consider sharing some ideas with your principal regarding spiritual practices and devotions that can enhance the faith of faculty and students during our 2017 Lententide.

Professional Development

Although most of schools' work with literacy is focused on reading and writing skills, academic discourse and public speaking are essential components of a solid ELA curriculum. We thought you might enjoy the following resource from Edutopia that focuses on one school's efforts to improve student oracy: <https://www.edutopia.org/practice/oracy-classroom-strategies-effective-talk>.

Teacher Performance Webinar

On January 26, OCS, in collaboration with HR and Legal Services, hosted a webinar for principals regarding addressing teacher performance problems. The link to the webinar recording can be accessed [here](#). The [PPT can be found here](#) in case you are interested in learning more.

Office of Catholic Schools