

June 2017

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



## OCS PASTORS' UPDATE

### FEATURED PASTOR



#### Rev. Matthew O'Donnell

Fr. Matt O'Donnell was ordained on May 12, 2012. He became pastor of St. Columbanus in Park Manor in July 2013. His hope is to bring the love of God to every person he meets, to bring the light of Christ to those who find themselves lost in darkness, and to bring the transforming power of the Holy Spirit to those in need of something new!

Fr. Matt is active throughout the Park Manor community. He is regularly seen in the church, school hallways, and participating in community events. Recently, over [200 volunteers helped build a Kaboom! playground](#) for Augustus Tolton Catholic Academy on one of the hottest days of the summer.

### WELCOME FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Pastors,

The summer is passing quickly! Summer is a busy time in the life of a Catholic school. On July 1, new principals will officially begin at several of our schools. For a list of new principals, see this [link](#). Please note that this list only includes schools where the principal has already been hired. There are a handful of schools still seeking principals, and these are not listed on this document.

In addition, I am happy to provide you with the "Master Calendar" for Catholic schools for the 2017/2018 school year. While most of these dates do not relate directly to your role as a school pastor, they may be helpful as you anticipate your school and principal's calendars. The calendar is [here](#).

Finally, remember to mark your calendar for August 3 at 1 p.m. As previously announced, all school pastors are invited to St. Ignatius College Prep on this date for the unveiling of our new strategic plan for Catholic schools. I am hoping for a good turnout for this event!

May God bless you this summer!

Yours in Christ,

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

#### Holy Fire

Students in grades 6-9 are invited to participate in 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 with 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 view this [flyer](#) and [FAQ sheet](#) for further information regarding registration and fees.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

July 4: Independence Day (OCS Closed)

July 10: Catholic Schools Today Radio Show on Relevant Radio 950 AM

August 3: Leadership Day

## August Professional Development

We are excited to announce that the Office of Catholic Schools, in partnership with Our Sunday Visitor (OSV), is hosting workshops for Catholic grade school teachers focused on “Divine Pedagogy” with Dr. Joseph White on Thursday, August 10 at Cardinal Joseph Bernardin School in Orland Hills and Monday, August 14 at St. Thomas of Villanova School in Palatine. Dr. Joseph White, a child psychologist and OSV National Catechetical Consultant, will provide a practical approach to “Divine Pedagogy,” ultimately focusing on a teacher’s ability to teach and form faith in innovative and relevant ways. During the afternoon, we will invite teachers from the participating schools to engage in grade level collaboration around religious instruction and faith formation, as well as, weaving Catholic Identity across the academic curriculum. The day will run from approximately 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. The registration fee for the workshop is \$15 per person and it will cover the cost of a light breakfast and lunch. Schools will be invoiced for the registration fee. Please click on this [link to register](#) your school by Friday, June 30, 2017. If you have further questions, please contact Bob Rabe at [rrabe@archchicago.org](mailto:rrabe@archchicago.org).

## SPOTLIGHT ON SCHOOLS

- [St. Margaret of Scotland's Circle of Rock featured on NBC Chicago](#)
- [Northside Catholic Academy says goodbye to Fr. Dominic Grassi. He has been president of NCA for the past 11 years.](#)
- [St. Luke School and the River Forest Police and Fire Department collaborated for a fundraiser. The top prize winners received a special escort to school.](#)
- [Rev. Dominic Clemente, a Saint Patrick High School alumnus and associate pastor at St. Edward Parish, featured in TIME magazine](#)
- [Regina Dominican initiated the Power of the Sisterhood networking event with alums from Mother McAuley High School, Our Lady of Tepeyac High School, Regina Dominican, Resurrection College Prep, Trinity High School and Woodlands Academy](#)
- [St. John Berrmans' student is receives sacraments during final school Mass](#)

## 2017 ACT Aspire Scores

Final results of the ACT Aspire summative test for Archdiocesan students in grades 3-8 will be available on the ACT Aspire portal on Wednesday, June 28. Principals have access to this portal. The Office of Catholic Schools is supporting the communication of 2017 ACT Aspire results with the following resources:

1. A letter to the parents of recent 8th grade graduates that can be customized for your school explaining the test results. This letter should be mailed to parents with their students 2017 test results. This letter will be sent to all elementary principals electronically on Friday, June 30.
2. A letter to the parents of rising 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade students that can be sent out with students’ 2017 ACT Aspire results. Principals are urged to wait to send out 2017 ACT Aspire results until after the August 3 Leadership Day where system-wide results and analysis will be shared.
3. Workshops will be provided in August (please see dates below) to all Archdiocesan principals and teachers who provide support for the interpretation of 2017 ACT Aspire results and the creation of your school’s Continuous School Improvement Plan (CSIP) for the 2017/2018 school year.
  - Workshop Title: Understanding and Using the ACT Aspire Spring 2017 Results, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.
  - Workshop Title: Create the 2017-18 Continuous School Improvement Plan, 12:30 to 3:30 pm. Workshop dates are Tuesday, August 8; Wednesday, August 9; Thursday, August 10; Tuesday, August 15; Wednesday, August 16; Thursday, August 17; and Friday, August 18.

Additionally, OCS encourages principals to share 2017 ACT Aspire results with their pastors and School Boards in advance of communications sent home regarding student’s 2017 ACT Aspire performance. In addition to the discussion of this important information with key stakeholders, OCS would like schools to post their 2017 ACT Aspire results on their school’s website.

Office of Catholic Schools

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