



Xavier University

Center For Catholic Education

A Vision Of Greatness For Catholic Schools

Telephone: 513-745-3477

Fall 2009 Newsletter

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

A New ICS Begins

This year marks the sixth year for the *Initiative for Catholic Schools* (ICS) program. The Clement and Ann Buenger Foundation grant has now provided direct professional development for 195 teachers representing 55 schools from both the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and the Diocese of Covington. This is just the beginning of the influence this program is having on Catholic education. Each of the ICS-trained teachers returned to his/her school and led a *Leadership Challenge* project for school-wide improvement. The winners have been thousands of Catholic school students. Increased interest in science and mathematics has been observed and measured in each participating school by way of increased student achievement.

This year we embark on an exciting new journey for ICS. The 2009-2010 cohort will be the first to implement the exciting research of Richard Dufour to transform Catholic schools into Professional Learning Communities (PLCs). PLCs provide the tools needed to change the culture within schools to ensure higher levels of learning and achievement for all students. The most promising strategy in this process is the development of the faculty's capacity to collaborate. When a school functions as a PLC there is a collective commitment to creating results-oriented goals and measuring progress. The PLC concept is about changing the culture in the school from one that focuses on teaching to one that centers on student learning and achievement.

We are excited about the potential of PLCs. Kudos and thank you to the Clement and Ann Buenger Foundation for their continued support and for making the *Initiative for Catholic Schools* possible.



Michael Flick
Director

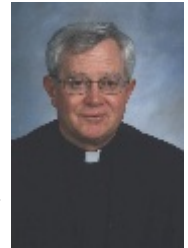
ASSOCIATE'S NOTES

An Update

Xavier University's desire to assist the elementary and secondary schools in the Greater Cincinnati area is one that Catholic universities all over the United States have for their areas. In early October I traveled to Chicago's Loyola University for the second of six planned meetings in what is called the Catholic Higher Education Collaboration (CHEC). Xavier was one of 23 universities at the meeting that studied how universities could develop programs to provide the leadership and support necessary to direct Catholic schools as they respond to changing demographics and the shifts in the Catholic population and ethos.

CHEC's first meeting took place earlier this year at Loyola-Marymount University in Los Angeles. The idea for the national collaboration came from a meeting sponsored in 2008 by the University of Notre Dame and the Carnegie Endowment. There was an emerging consensus that more programs like Xavier's Initiative for Catholic Schools and its M.Ed. program for Catholic teachers were needed.

The October meeting focused on the essential elements that must be preserved by school leaders to ensure a thoroughly Catholic education in the current culture. The educators gathered in Chicago worked from Thursday evening until midday Saturday to articulate the essential elements in a truly Catholic education. Certainly one of those elements is a continued emphasis on academic excellence, which will be the subject of the third meeting next fall in Boston, hosted by Boston College and Fordham University



Robert Bueter, S.J.
Associate Director



Ann Buenger Speaker Series



Matthew Kelly, an internationally acclaimed speaker and a New York Times best-selling author, will present *The Best Version of Yourself: A New Paradigm for Education* at Xavier's Cintas Center on October 29th from 4 to 6 pm. Over the past decade, more than three million people in 50 countries have attended his programs, seminars, and retreats. This program is open to the public but requires a reservation. To reserve a seat please email your name to specialevents@xavier.edu.

Boys Hope Girls Hope



Boys Hope Girls Hope's (BHGH) Community Based Program partnered with Xavier's XUCCE, XCEED, and the Department of Secondary and Special Education. Boys Hope Girls Hope helps academically capable and motivated children-in-need meet their full potential and become men and women for others by providing value-centered homes, opportunities, and education through college.

Xavier collaborates by providing tutors at the BHGH St. Francis DeSales site. We also make facilities available on Xavier's campus for workshops and training activities.

SACRE

The School for Adult Catholic Religious Education (SACRE) is continuing to be popular with our local parish constituents. In the XUCCE program we are currently offering two workshops: *The Life and Letters of St. Paul* and *The Emerging Church*.



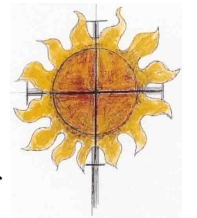
These workshops are offered in the XUCCE facilities and are being facilitated by Dr. Brennan Hill (from Xavier's Theology Department) and Mrs. Jeanne Hunt (Advisor for Catechesis and Evangelization at St. Anthony Messenger Press).

Center Hosts Catholic High School Event



Sixteen Catholic high schools participated in an information fair that was sponsored by the Center for Catholic Education and the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Catholic Schools Office on September 20th. An estimated 800 families attended the event that was held in the Duff Banquet Room at the Cintas Center. Each high school had a display, brochures, staff, and students to promote its school and programs.

Catholic Educator Master's Degree



We are beginning a special cohort of Catholic educators for the Master of Education (M.Ed.) degree. This cohort will receive a \$285 discount per credit hour for the core courses taken at Notre Dame Academy, a special Catholic teacher rate on campus, and the last course in the program will be free of charge. For more information contact the Office of Graduate Services at 513-745-3360.

Inclusive Schools



A partnership has been established between XUCCE and the Developing Inclusive Schools Consortium to help make our Catholic schools inclusive and free from bullying. Look for more information in future newsletters and on our Web site (www.xavier.edu/cce).

Recognition Evening

Over 900 Catholic teachers from the Archdiocese of Cincinnati were honored at a banquet on April 30th at Xavier's Cintas Center. Recognizing that the vocation of teaching is a natural fit with the mission of Xavier University and the Center for Catholic Education, we proudly support this program and our partnerships with the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Catholic Schools Office.

