DIRECTOR’S MESSAGE
Catholic Education

The 2010-2011 school year marks the beginning of an important era for Catholic education in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. The Archdiocese began the school year with a new Superintendent, Dr. James Rigg. Dr. Rigg also assumes Brother Joe Kamis’s seat on the Advisory Board of the Xavier University Center for Catholic Education.

Catholic education is not without its challenges. Changing demographics have had a major impact on enrollments. Nationally, there are many school buildings in urban areas without a nearby Catholic population. There are thousands of potential students in suburban areas where schools have yet to be built. The challenge is to be able to provide an affordable Catholic education for all.

With that said, the academic strength of Catholic schools is unparalleled in American history. Researchers have found that when learning in a Catholic school is done in an environment filled with moral values and the practice of faith, test scores and achievements are unequalled by their public school counterparts.

Catholic school graduates make good citizens who are genuinely committed to social justice. The widespread infusion of service-learning in Catholic schools has contributed to graduates who are involved in volunteer activities as adults. Catholic schools provide students with an education that is academically superior in an environment that is safe and faith-based. A testament to the quality of Catholic schools is that over 99% of Catholic high school seniors graduated in 2010 (compared to about 70% in public schools). And 85% of Catholic high school graduates go on to college (compared to 44% of public school graduates). It is little wonder that Catholic schools are regarded as a gift to both the Church and the nation.

ASSOCIATE’S NOTES
Away and Home

The challenge of providing affordable Catholic education for all, mentioned by our director, Michael Flick in his message, is a national challenge. I traveled away to the campus of Boston College at the end of September to attend the third meeting of the Catholic Higher Education Collaborative. As mentioned in earlier editions of this newsletter, this movement arose out of a concern on the part of Catholic universities to bring university strengths and resources to bear on the challenges facing Catholic elementary and secondary schools all over the country.

In Boston, the assembled educators, superintendents, and others interested in the future of Catholic education looked into the academic strength that Dr. Flick also mentioned in his message. That strength is our trump suit in addressing the new challenges that our Catholic schools are facing around the country. That strength is also the motivating insight of our special M.Ed. program here at Xavier for Catholic educators which I have described in earlier newsletters. This semester we are finishing initial coursework for our fourth group of Catholic educators that entered this program, and we are preparing for another group to begin the program in the spring 2011 semester (details on the reverse side). By providing further education to these teachers already at work in schools both in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and in the Diocese of Covington, we're doing our part to develop the academic strengths of these institutions in which they teach. This, too, is the motivating factor in our Professional Learning Communities program described also on the reverse side of this newsletter.
Center To Host Reception For Superintendent

Dr. James Rigg is the new Superintendent of Catholic schools and Director of Educational Services for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. XUCCE in conjunction with Xavier’s School of Education will host a reception in his honor on October 22 at 4pm. This “meet and greet the superintendent” will be held in the Schiff Family Conference Center at Xavier’s Cintas Center.

If you would like to attend this event, please telephone Nancy Sampson at 745-3477.

Ann Buenger Catholic Speaker Series

Our fall 2010 speaker series will feature Patrick McCaskey, co-owner of the Chicago Bears. He is the grandson of the founder of the Bears and he established an organization, Sports Faith International, to promote the value of sports in forming Christian virtues. McCaskey is an acclaimed speaker who will talk about his Catholic faith. Over 750 Catholic educators, parents, teachers, future teachers, and interested community members typically attend this annual event. There is no cost for the reception and program but reservations are required. Call Xavier’s Office of Special Events at 513-745-3571 to reserve your seat!

Leadership Scholars

The Center for Catholic Education again hosted the Leadership Scholars summer program. This year over 170 urban students took part in this month-long educational “summer camp” that dealt with topics from reading and writing to art and sports. The Leadership Scholars program is a mentoring program that pairs a scholar (a sixth-, seventh-, or eighth-grade student in an urban Catholic elementary school) with a student leader from a Catholic high school. The program provides students with opportunities to develop their leadership abilities through focused leadership education and mentor relationships. Throughout the 2010-2011 academic year Xavier will also host Leadership Scholars for their monthly programs. The Leadership Scholars end-of-year celebration was held on May 16th in Xavier’s Duff Banquet Center for over 200 students and about 100 guests. Dr. Flick was presented with the Leadership Scholars Champion Award by Leadership Scholars at the celebration.

Master’s Degree An Update

Xucce is completing its first Master of Education (M.Ed.) cohort for Catholic educators at Notre Dame Academy. A second cohort will begin in January 2011. An information session will be held on Xavier’s campus for the new cohort on December 9, 2010, at 4:30 pm. In this program, the first 12 semester hours of the 30 semester-hour degree are offered at Notre Dame Academy with the balance of the program’s coursework completed on Xavier’s campus. This special program makes the Master’s degree available to Catholic teachers at about 50% discount. For more information contact the Office of Graduate Services at 513-745-3360.

Initiative For Catholic Schools Professional Learning Communities (PLC)

This year marks the beginning of XUCCE’s second year in partnership with the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Catholic Schools Office to provide professional development in the PLC model for Catholic schools. A PLC focuses on learning rather than teaching while working collaboratively and holding the professionals accountable for results. Fifteen schools and 45 educators are committed to this yearlong series of workshops. XUCCE also sponsored a PLC professional development daylong workshop on October 1. Over 180 teachers from 22 Catholic schools attended this program at the Cintas Center.