

**Catholic
Diocese of
Toledo**

TEACHER BULLETIN

December 2009



CYSS.org

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FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

AN ADVENT PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ,
who is, who was, and who is to come,
we pray for the virtue of hope,
that amidst the trials and difficulties
of this world,
we may keep our hearts fixed
upon you, who reigns over the cosmos.
May your grace enliven us,
strengthen us,
and defend us,
as we await your coming in glory. Amen

David Bennett

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Note:

The next Teacher Bulletin will be published on January 15th.

As we prepare ourselves for Christmas, all of us in the “Catholic Youth and School Services” office send our prayers and best wishes to all who minister in our Catholic schools. Teacher-ministers do the important work of infusing our faith in their daily lessons. That work is so very important, but it is also tiring! Hopefully, you will find some time to rest and enjoy some quality time with family and friends during the coming Christmas break.

STUDENT EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AWARDS PROGRAM SEEKS TEACHER & STUDENT TEAMS

Do you have a student who has an amazing idea...one that could be patented and possibly be taken to the commercial marketplace? The Spirit of Innovation Awards program challenges teams of high school students to solve real-world problems by creating products using science, technology and entrepreneurship. The competition encourages students to develop new products that can be introduced to the marketplace. The 2009-2010 competition challenges students to develop new ideas in one of four areas: green schools, aerospace exploration, renewable energy and space nutrition. In April, top teams will be honored with a \$5,000 grant to further develop their product. Teachers are sought to be coaches, judges, sponsors, experts or to fill other roles. The National Science Teachers Association and the FFA are partner organizations in the Spirit of Innovation Awards. To learn more, go to www.conradawards.org. Deadline to register for the competition is Dec. 15th.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES & FREEBIES

CENTER FOR MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE EDUCATION

Contact: <http://www.unc.edu/depts/cmse/grantopp.html> Amount: Varies

A thorough list of grant opportunities for professional development, curriculum development, classroom materials, etc.

DUPONT CO.

Contact: http://www2.dupont.com/Social_Compmitment/en_US/educational/index.html Amount: varies

The DuPont Office of Education (OOE) works with educators, university faculty, the business community, and local DuPont sites to prepare today's children for tomorrow's world. DuPont supports programs and initiatives with the potential to demonstrate improved and sustainable outcomes, primarily in mathematics, science, and technology education.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITY

ASSESSMENT *FOR* LEARNING

Click [here](#) for the December issue of *Assessment for Learning*. In this issue you will learn how to design assessments to do what you want; and we will explore selected response, extended written response, performance assessment and personal communication. Next month we will look at selected response assessments in more detail.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

UT LEADERS SCHOLARSHIP

The University of Toledo has invited the Diocese of Toledo to participate in a grant that they have written that supports science teachers learning more about renewable energy.

Following is a brief descriptor of the grant:

Do you want to become a science leader in your school district?

Join the **LEADERS** (*Leadership for Educators: Academy for Driving Economic Revitalization in Science*) program at The University of Toledo. **LEADERS** is looking for *two* elementary (K-6) teachers, *two* junior high (7-8) teachers, *two* high school (9-12) teachers, *one* principal and *one* administrator who have strong science

backgrounds to create, test, refine and disseminate science curricula focused on renewable energy and to plan and implement district-wide projects.

The **LEADERS** program is a three year commitment: attendance in three summer institutes beginning summer 2010 and two following academic years. You will receive honoraria for the coursework over the three years (worth over \$15,000), summer stipends (\$3,000 each summer), and 10 days of release time during the academic year (grant pays for substitute teachers). For additional flyers and a preliminary application click [here](#)

LICENSURE

BACKGROUND REPORTS – LICENSE APPLICATIONS

We received the following e-mail from the Ohio Department of Education:

By **January 1, 2010**, updated licensure application forms will be posted on the ODE Web site to comply with new House Bill 1 criminal background check requirements. Under the new requirements, applicants for Ohio licensure need to establish whether they have lived continuously in Ohio for the past five years. The answer to this residency question will determine what background checks educators will need to complete as they renew licenses or apply for additional licenses.

These updated licensure application forms are the *only* applications that will be accepted after **Jan. 1, 2010**. If any of the older applications are received after that date, they will be *declined* and applicants will be notified of the need to complete an updated application form. Please share this important information with all district staff.

Educators who renew licenses in 2010, have lived inside of Ohio continuously for the past five years, and have an FBI report on file, will only need to complete an Ohio BCI report. Any new licenses or renewals from educators who have lived outside of Ohio within the past five years will need new BCI and FBI reports.

The link to current license applications can be found on the CYSS website.

L.I.F.E.

Making the CREDO and our Catholic Identity visible in our school buildings was one of the goals of our Catholic Educators' Academy. As the school year progresses, we must continue to work on implementing and continuing the plans that were developed as a result of the summer work. Here are some of the "progress reports" we have received from our schools.

Some schools have created prayer corners in every room in the building instead of just classrooms. Many schools are praying before the start of every class whether it is a math, science, or religion class. In one of our schools, prayer is being used in every aspect of school life including the playground. When the church bells ring at noon, all students stop to fold their hands and pray before lining up to go inside.

Lial, Whitehouse has focused on ways to connect pray with multiple intelligences. One teacher had students break into groups according to their preferred learning style. They created a prayer experience in their chosen mode such as a prayer ball, songs, poems, and pictures. These M.I. prayers are being used in their class throughout the year.

St. Wendelin, Fostoria has conducted an Advent Retreat and plans to do the same during the Lenten season. Other schools are renewing their commitment to traditional Catholic traditions such as praying the Rosary, Eucharistic adoration, Seder meal, May Crowning/Prayer Service. **St. Joseph, Monroeville** is studying a

“Saint of the Week” that models a particular Life Skill. Monthly bulletin boards also connect the saints with Life Skills.

Making the Credo come alive in our schools is an ongoing goal. Let us know what you are doing to promote Learning In a Faith-filled Environment by e-mailing mhartman@toledodiocese.org.

L.I.F.E. TEAM MEETING REMINDER

The next L.I.F.E. Team Meeting for building reps is scheduled for **Tuesday, January 5, 2010**. We will meet 9:30 am. – 3:30 pm. at St. Michael in Findlay. The theme for the day is “We believe those entrusted to us are not only students, but children of God.”

TECHNOLOGY



THINKFINITY! <http://www.thinkfinity.org/>

Thinkfinity.org is the cornerstone of Verizon Foundation's literacy, education and technology initiatives. Our goal is to improve K-12 student achievement in traditional classroom settings and beyond by providing high-quality content and extensive professional development training.

This *free*, comprehensive digital learning platform is built upon the merger of two acclaimed programs Verizon MarcoPolo and the Thinkfinity Literacy Network.

Also check out their professional development webinars:

- [Strategies for Sharing Verizon Thinkfinity](#)
- [Think Possibilities-Verizon Thinkfinity's FREE Online Tools!](#)
- [Reaching 21st Century Students with Verizon Thinkfinity](#)

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

HOLIDAY RESOURCES

The following links provide a number of classroom resources for Advent, Christmas and Martin Luther King Jr. Day: [Advent](#), [Christmas](#), [Martin Luther King Jr.](#)

NEW FREE EDUCATIONAL WEBSITE

The co-founder of Wikipedia has launched a new Web site, www.watchknow.org, designed to offer free access to thousands of education-related videos for students ages 3-18. The new site allows students and teachers to sort through a library of online videos by content area. The site is intended to store and organize videos that are free and available online, yet which most people don't know how to find. So far the site offers 11,000 videos in 2,000 categories. The contributions have come from National Geographic and Google Videos, among many other sources. The project is funded the Community Foundation of Northwest Mississippi, whose officials hope to have more than 50,000 videos on the site by the end of 2010.

NEW VIDEO BASED SCIENCE TEACHING TOOL FOR GRADES 8-10

Spaced Out: A Cosmic Scene is a Web site consisting of eight science and mathematics student video-on-demand modules for at-risk students in grades 8-10, and eight teacher self-study video support modules with assessment strategies. All content is aligned with the Ohio Academic Content Standards. *Spaced Out* is a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) project funded by eTech Ohio and produced by the WOUB Center for Public Media at Ohio University, in collaboration with Educational Technology for SE Ohio (eTSEO) in Athens.

The teacher modules for each episode illustrate how the concepts may be taught; expand on the materials in the student video, pointing out subtleties that might be missed or are not brought out in the student video; provide suggestions on how to incorporate the student video into daily classroom instruction; make connections to mathematics applications; &, include a link to curriculum resources. Visit <http://woub.org/spacedout/> to access the Web site and videos.

TECHNOLOGY ENTERTAINMENT DESIGN (TED)

www.ted.com is a website that contains videos from the annual TED conference which brings together some of the world's most fascinating thinkers. More than 400 of the conference's best talks and performances are available free on the web site. Teachers can use the videos to spark interest and discussion in many subject areas. For example, History Students can view Historian Doris Kearns Goodwin talking about what we can learn from U.S. Presidents; and Math Students can view ethno-mathematician Ron Eglash explore fractal patterns underpinning architecture, art and design in many parts of Africa.

OHIO FARM BUREAU

The Ohio Farm Bureau has developed a site for teachers that include lesson plans by grade level in English language arts, family and consumer sciences, mathematics, science, social studies and technology. There are videos and links to other Web resources and materials. Teachers also can sign up for an e-newsletter. Visit <http://ouohio.org/teachers/> to access the teacher's page.

NATIONAL MIGRATION WEEK

The Catholic Church in the United States will celebrate *National Migration Week* on January 3-9, 2010. The theme this year will again be "Renewing Hope, Seeking Justice," although the focus will be migrant and refugee children, following the lead of the Pope Benedict XVI, who has chosen the theme "Minor Migrants and Refugees" for the 2010 World Day of Migrants and Refugees.

Information and materials for National Migration Week 2010 can be found at <http://www.usccb.org/mrs/nmw/index.shtml>. A variety of other materials can also be ordered from the USCCB Publishing Office at 1-800-235-8722 or through their Website at www.usccbpublishing.org.

NATIONAL VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK

The Catholic Church in the United States will celebrate National Vocation Awareness Week, January 10-16, 2010. Information for schools can be found at <http://www.ncev-vocations.org/index.html>.

Several initiatives to highlight priesthood and religious life are on-going in 2010. The Vatican-sponsored Year for Priests continues through June 2010 <http://www.usccb.org/yearforpriests/>. Additional information is located on the Diocese of Toledo website <http://www.toledodiocese.org/index.php/year-for-priests>.

An exhibit on the contributions of women religious in the United States, Women & Spirit, opens at the Smithsonian institution in Washington, January 14. More information on this traveling exhibit can be found at www.womenandspirit.org. The Smithsonian is co-sponsoring this exhibit with the Leadership Conference of Women Religious.

The U.S. bishops have also named promotion of vocations to priesthood and religious life as one of their current five priorities and are deciding on efforts to promote vocations, for example, through their Website, www.usccb.org.

INTEGRATING CATHOLIC IDENTITY ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

Expressions of Catholic faith should not be limited to the religion classroom. [Reclaiming the Catholic Classroom](#) by Elissa A. Greenburg, Today's Catholic Teacher, August/September 2003 outlines how to integrate Catholicism into every subject and every season.

CALL FOR ARTISTS

The Diocese of Toledo will celebrate the Year for Priests with a traveling art show that will tour the Dioceses' 19 county area. The Diocese is looking for artists of all ages and mediums to submit Catholic themed artwork for the show. Each piece of artwork must be original and professionally finished. Multi-media and performance art is not eligible. Art submissions will be divided into two categories, K-12 and Adult. For more information, go to the diocesan web site: www.toledodiocese.org

UPDATES

NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION KUDOS!

Congratulations to Phyllis Bixler from Notre Dame Academy in Toledo. Phyllis received National Board Certification in November on her first effort. This is an arduous process, and very difficult to successfully achieve on the first attempt. Thanks to another National Board Certified teacher, Angie Young, from Cardinal Stritch High School. Angie provided guidance to Phyllis during the process.

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