

Federation of
Diocesan Teachers

Local 2400
NACST

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Justice and Dignity for
The Catholic Teacher

OUTLOOK

DECEMBER, 2007

EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTION

In February of 2008, elections will take place for the following positions on the FPDT Executive Board: President, Executive Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, three Secondary Vice-Presidents, three Elementary Vice-Presidents, and six Vice-Presidents at large.

According to the Federation constitution, any person wishing to be considered for the Executive Board who has not been nominated by the Election Committee shall present a petition signed by at least ten (10) active members placing such person's name in nomination and including a signed statement by the candidate indicating a willingness to serve if elected.

If you intend to run for any position on the Executive Board, you must forward your completed and signed petition by January 31, 2008 to:

Chuck Bowen

120 West Oliver

Munhall, PA 15120

We Are The FPDT

- Bishop Canevin
- Bishop Leonard-St. Mary of the Mount Academy
- Bishop McDowell
- Blessed Sacrament
- Brookline Regional
- Butler Catholic
- Central Catholic
- Christ The Divine Teacher Academy
- Elizabeth Seton
- Holy Trinity
- Immaculate Conception
- John F. Kennedy
- North Catholic
- Oakland Catholic
- Our Lady of Fatima
- Our Lady of Grace
- Quigley Catholic
- Serra Catholic
- Seton LaSalle
- Ss. Simon and Jude
- St. Agnes
- St. Alexis
- St. Alphonsus
- St. Anthony
- St. Athanasius
- St. Bartholomew
- St. Bernadette
- St. Bernard
- St. Bonaventure
- St. Gabriel
- St. John Neumann
- St. John of God
- St. John The Baptist, Monaca
- St. John The Baptist, Unity
- St. Joseph
- St. Louise De Marillac
- St. Malachy
- St. Mary
- St. Maurice
- St. Patrick
- St. Sebastian
- St. Sylvester
- St. Teresa
- St. Therese
- St. Titus
- St. Valentine
- St. Vitus

OUR SCHOOLS CELEBRATE THE SEASON

While our schools are actively involved in various service projects throughout the year, the Christmas season offers many examples of our students putting their Faith into practice. For example, our schools contribute to the Chimbote Mission by holding “Penny Wars” and other fund raising events. Some other projects undertaken by our students include contributing to the Clean Water Project in Guatemala and the Ojos Claros Project- collecting eyeglasses so others may learn. One of our schools has undertaken the challenging task of quilting to create blankets and quilts for children in hospitals.

These are just a few of the many activities that have opened the eyes of our students to the wider world. They are learning to understand Jesus’ directive “Whatever you do...that you do unto Me.” What a great gift to celebrate His birthday.

OWNERSHIP RUSSELL DEL VECCHIO

I would like to take this opportunity to give you mine and Gina Baer’s impressions of our first meeting with Bishop David Zubick. The meeting was occasioned by our visit regarding the Bishop’s Education Fund.

After the usual perfunctory “hello” and “nice to see you” remarks the Bishop proceeded with a rather long series of very detailed questions and follow-up questions all centering around how teachers and the FPDT viewed the state of Catholic education in the Diocese of Pittsburgh. He was genuinely interested in our points of view and it was obvious that he had insight into where we are coming from. It was during this very open and frank discussion that Bishop Zubick demonstrated a clear grasp of the accomplishments achieved and the challenges facing Catholic educators in the Diocese of Pittsburgh. There was no doubt that the bishop recognizes the important role of Catholic Education and the value of the Catholic Educator.

Our meeting ended with a very rare happening. The Bishop’s last question left me speechless and those of you who know me know how out of the ordinary that was. As a matter of course you try to mentally prepare a list of questions and answers based on what you expect will be asked. I was in no way expecting his last question and I was so very stunned that I turned to Gina and asked if she wanted to go first as to buy myself a moment to gather my thoughts. He asked what he could do to help us and the School’s Office in addressing the challenges facing the schools and the teachers.

The fact that the question was asked and the degree of sincerity in which it was asked was totally unexpected. Our answer was the we need to keep the lines of communication open and that we need to be partners in addressing the issues facing the schools now and in the future. To paraphrase his answer, he commented that was a given. After witnessing what is happening in other dioceses I can report that no other bishop has even come close to asking this question or given his response to our answer.

I stated at the meeting that we may not always agree on the issues but if we are in apposition rather opposition, a common ground for agreement can be found. We left the meeting impressed with Bishop Zubick the man and the priest, and feeling that what we are doing here is above and beyond what is happening elsewhere.

On behalf of the Executive Board and myself I wish you the very best Christmas and happiest New Year.



December 5, 2007

Mr. Russell Del Vecchio
Ms. Gina Baer
Federation of Pittsburgh Diocesan Teachers
680 Andersen Drive
Foster Plaza, Building 10
Pittsburgh, PA 15220

Dear Mr. Del Vecchio and Ms. Baer,


On behalf of those who benefit from your generosity, I would like to express our gratitude for the Federation of Pittsburgh Diocesan Teachers' recent gift to the Bishop's Education Fund of \$10,000.

Proclaiming their affirmation of the importance of Catholic education in the world of the third millennium, the Catholic bishops of the United States issued the statement *In Support of Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools* (1990). In it, they affirmed "the strong conviction that Catholic schools are of great value to our Church and our nation; and that, in our role as chief teachers, we are each responsible for the total educational ministry of the local Church. The entire ecclesial community... is called to value ever more deeply the importance of this task and mission, and to continue to give it full and enthusiastic support."

Your exemplary generosity and leadership in the endeavor to keep Catholic education affordable and available to the families of this diocese continues to be a source of inspiration and encouragement.

Allow me to again express our gratitude for your valuable tradition of support.

Sincerely,



Joseph DiMario
Director
Diocesan Foundation

cc: Reverend Kris Stubna

*The Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh Did Not Provide Any Tangible Goods or Services
in Exchange for This Donation.*

Put faith in the future - remember the Foundation in your will.

111 Boulevard of the Allies Pittsburgh, PA 15222 Telephone 412.456.3085 Fax 412.456.3169 www.diopitt.org

ELEMENTARY NEGOTIATIONS ARE UNDER WAY!

Thanks to all elementary teachers who participated in the surveys. These surveys offered good insights to formulate the Federation language proposals.

On Friday, December 7th, the Elementary Negotiating team met for the first time with Diocese of Pittsburgh. The Federation negotiating team is: Russ Del Vecchio, President; Linda Attwood, Immaculate Conception; Gina Baer, St. Gabriel; Tracey Bekavac, St. Gabriel; Cindy DiBello, Elizabeth

Seton Regional; Mike Galuska, Brookline Regional; Mary Kay Mooney, St. Sebastian; and Marty Murawski, Bishop McDowell Regional. At that first meeting, we presented these language proposals. This is the first of many meetings and we will keep you posted on this website as things progress.

Please check back for future updates.

In reading through the Elementary school surveys, we noticed many infractions that some schools are committing. I would like to address a few of these, If your school is guilty of any of these, please call us for help.

- You are not janitors. Wiping off your own desk is OK; cleaning student desks, windowsills, etc. is not OK. This has been the precedent from the inception of the Union. As he does every year, Russ Del Vecchio included this in his agenda at the General Membership meeting and at the Building Rep meeting.
- Substitutes are not your responsibility. See Elementary contract p. 32, article 16.6, E. "It is the responsibility of the school administration to employ the substitute teacher."
- You are to be compensated for covering classes (if you choose to do so.) Look again at p. 32; article 16.6, F explains what you are entitled to receive.

I hope this clears up some confusion. But remember, we can do nothing if we do not know a problem is occurring. Please help us help you. Call us with questions or concerns.



*The virgin shall be with child
and give birth to a son,
and they shall call him Emmanuel.*

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Executive Board and
staff of the Federation!*

*God grant you the light of Christmas, which is faith; the warmth of Christmas,
which is love . . .*

the all of Christmas, which is Christ.

Wilda English