

CSO Sponsors New Principals Professional Development Seminar



Principal Rashaun J. Martin of Cathedral High School (Boston), Principal Jim Spillman of Blessed Sacrament (Walpole), Principal Caitlin Keeton of St. Rose (Chelsea), and Principal Maura Burke of St. Brendan (Dorchester)

October 7, 2010—The Catholic Schools Office welcomed their newest principals to a Professional Development seminar at the Pastoral Center in Braintree. Organized by Karen McLaughlin, Principal of St. Paul’s School in Wellesley, attendees were introduced to various programs and offices within the Archdiocese. Each of these offices offer support to all Catholic schools. McLaughlin’s goal was to foster a strong mutual relationship between principals, their school communities, and the Archdiocese. She wanted the meeting to serve as a “jumping off point for us to learn about the many resources that are offered within the Archdiocese that folks might not be aware of.” Dedicated to more than just administrative details, Principal McLaughlin hoped that “new principals walked away with a greater sense and a greater understanding that we are all in this together and we are all here to support one another.”

Presenters included:

- Bob Kelly, Director of the Office of Child Advocacy, opened the session. Mr. Kelly described the mutual responsibilities of students and adults to keep each other informed and maintain important trust relationships within school communities. He also spoke about the *Protecting God’s Children Program*.
- Stephen Colella, Assistant Director of the Office of New Evangelization (ONE), spoke enthusiastically about the importance of young adult ministries. ONE reaches out to students through a number of Archdiocese-wide programs, including CYO Athletics, awards banquets, harbor cruises for middle school-age kids, and the Witness to Life field trip to Washington, D.C.

Emphasizing the success of the field trips' pilot program, Mr. Colella described how students' participation in the program's youth rally, Walk for Life, fun catechetical nights, and tour of Washington D.C. provides an eye-opening and age-appropriate perspective of what it means to be a member of the modern American Catholic community.

- Katie Dardis of the Respect Life Education Office touched on the mandatory *See I Make All Things New* seventh-grade family life curriculum. Not only for students, the “virtues-building” program reaches out to parents and teachers, recognizing their influence on schoolchildren and reminding them of their obligation to “teach the moral aspect” of family life. The Respect Life Office also offers an in-depth program for high school students. The program seeks to deepen the young adults’ relationships with the weighty material by incorporating relevant aspects of their daily lives.

- Mary Ann McLaughlin, Co-Director of the Office of Worship and Spiritual Life, introduced the community-building benefits of ARISE and its related programs. Important for the way it helps people articulate their faith based on common material, McLaughlin stressed that ARISE can be adapted for parent and teacher use, both inside and outside the classroom.

- Maureen Heil of the Holy Childhood Association works to advance the Catholic Church’s worldwide mission efforts within the classroom. For the low membership cost of \$1.25, the Pontifical Mission Society can issue each child an informational newsletter, a World Mission Rosary, and the opportunity to hear from visiting missionaries. The Holy Childhood Association also sponsors national events, including art contests and fundraising efforts.

- Beirne Lovely, General Legal Counsel, addressed a host of legal issues. Underscoring his message that the legal team is always willing to accept calls and dispense policy advice, Attorney Lovely opened the floor up to questions and discussion.

This was the second in a series of four professional development sessions for new principals in the Archdiocese. The first session focused on spirituality and faith formation while the remaining two will address issues of finances and academic excellence.

For a complete list of all new principals in the Archdiocese of Boston, please visit http://catholicschoolsboston.org/News/100809-New_Principals.pdf.

By Christina Sorgi, Catholic Schools Office