

Educators Gather for Professional Development



Teachers receive a presentation regarding new educational materials

MEDFORD, MA - Over 160 Archdiocese of Boston teachers and principals from 10 schools gathered on Friday, October 8th for the “In Collaboration and Collegiality for Catholic Schools in pursuit of Faith Formation and Academic Excellence” conference. The meeting, held at St. Joseph Elementary School in Medford, was designed to provide direction for faculty and administrators as well as to present an opportunity for the attendees to share ideas and foster an atmosphere of collaboration across area schools.

The charge to the conference attendees was provided by both the Secretary of Education/Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Mary Grassa O’Neill, as well as the event’s keynote speaker, Dr. Ernie Collamati, chairman of the Religious Studies Department at Regis College. Following an opening prayer and welcoming remarks by Jim Devaney, Principal of St. Joseph’s, Dr. O’Neill stressed the importance of sustaining strong academics and Catholic identity in the Archdiocese schools. She also reminded the assembled teachers and principals that they provide the best and most visible public relations for catholic schools, “not just in school, but out of school.” Building on this theme in his spirited address, Dr. Collamati stressed the need for catholic schools to help “develop a core of Church leaders” while encouraging teachers and principals to help students develop faith while further developing their own spirituality.



Dr. Collamati addresses the assembled educators

Following the addresses, educators divided into groups divided by grade level and subject area where teachers had the opportunity to present lessons plans, receive feedback and share ideas in an open forum moderated by a local principal. “I really benefited from the small group discussions by getting a better understanding of where I am supposed to be in teaching my curriculum to my class and I enjoyed being able to learn what other lessons teachers are doing for the same topic I am teaching” reported Stacey Scott, a sixth grade teacher St. Joseph School in Medford. Following these intra-disciplinary sessions, the assembled teachers and principals were invited to attend a closing mass at St. Joseph Church celebrated by Pastor Patrick McLaughlin.

Schools in attendance:

East Boston Catholic Central
Immaculate Conception of Revere
St. Agnes of Arlington
St. Anthony of Everett
St. Catherine of Somerville
St. Clement of Medford/Somerville
St. John of Boston (North End)
St. Joseph School of Medford
St. Peter of Cambridge
St. Rose of Chelsea.

For more information regarding Catholic education, please visit the Boston Catholic Schools office website at www.catholicschoolsboston.org/.

By Sean Murphy, Catholic Schools Office