

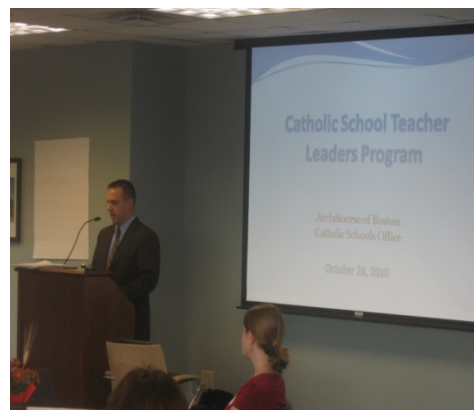
Developing Teacher Leaders for Boston Catholic Schools



Teacher Leader Participants Discuss Potential Action Plans

BRAINTREE, MA – 36 teachers from 21 schools throughout the Archdiocese of Boston assembled at the Pastoral Center in Braintree on October 26th for the first session of the 2010-2011 Catholic Schools Teacher Leader Program. Moderated by Chris Beza, Principal of Sacred Heart Elementary School in Weymouth, the meeting focused upon defining the role of teacher leaders, identifying potential areas for school improvement and discussing how to implement educational changes moving forward. “High performing [Catholic school] systems need leaders at every level to achieve academic excellence, ensure strong Catholic identity and create the sustainability needed to serve our students now and into the future” stated Superintendent of Schools Dr. Mary Grassa O’Neill, who was in attendance.

This assembling of educators, the first of four such sessions to be held throughout the current academic year, aims to provide participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to be leaders amongst their teaching peers moving into the future. “We want to empower teachers to take an active role in improving student learning school-wide and we also want to connect these teacher leaders with other dynamic teacher leaders throughout the Archdiocese” reported Chris Fliieger, the Archdiocese of Boston’s Deputy Director for Academic Excellence. This work will continue outside of the classroom, as each of the participants has been given the tasks of identifying a potential area of improvement for their schools and formulating an action plan during the course of the program.



Chris Beza addresses the educators

Throughout the session, educators were divided into smaller groups where teachers had the opportunity to share ideas and potential actions plans before reporting back to the group-at-large. “It was interesting to hear what my fellow teachers thought were the important personal and professional qualities of a teacher leader. Meeting new teachers and learning a bit about some of the educational initiatives they are addressing in their schools was motivating” reported Susan Rovzar, a sixth grade teacher at St. Joseph Elementary in Needham.

The next session is scheduled for November 17th at the Pastoral Center in Braintree.

The following schools sent teachers to the program: Bishop Fenwick High School in Peabody, Blessed Sacrament Elementary in Walpole, Boston College High School in Dorchester, Cheverus Elementary in Malden, Holy Family Elementary in Rockland, Lowell Catholic High School, Malden Catholic High School, Mount Alvernia Academy in Newton, Our Lady of Perpetual Help (Mission Grammar) in Roxbury, Pope John Paul II School (Neponset Campus), Quincy Catholic Academy, Sacred Heart School in Roslindale, St. Agatha Elementary in Milton, St. Catherine of Siena in Norwood, St. Joseph Elementary in Needham, South Boston Catholic Academy, St. Brendan Elementary in Dorchester, St. Charles Elementary in Woburn, St. Clement Parish Schools in Medford, St. Michael Elementary in Lowell and St. Rose School in 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