

Catholic Schools' Week '07

January 28- February 3, 2007

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The nation's nearly 8,000 Catholic will celebrate Catholic Schools Week, Jan. 29 through Feb. 4. This year's theme is "Catholic Schools: the Good News in Education." The theme was chosen because of its appeal to Catholic schools and for the strong message it sends to parents and supporters.

Catholic Schools Week is an activity of the National Marketing Campaign For Catholic Schools, a joint project of NCEA and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

Dr. Karen M. Ristau, president of the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA), said, "Catholic Schools do good work all year around. But on this week we want to focus everyone's attention on the fact that Catholics schools are good news. In addition to learning reading, writing and arithmetic, students also learn responsibility—and how to become persons of character and integrity."

Father William Davis, a priest of the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales and interim secretary for education at the USCCB, said "High achievement rates, high retention rates, high moral values and high student and parent satisfaction are the distinctive marks of a Catholic school. That's the good news and we want to share it."

National Appreciation Day For Catholic Schools will be observed



Parents are the first educators of their children and are the best role models when it comes to service. Whatever parents do, they should talk about it with their children. And when they're old enough, the children should be encouraged to participate as well. The 2007 Catholic Schools Week logo features an open book, symbolizing both the Bible and knowledge and underscoring the Christ-centered, religious foundation and academic excellence of Catholic schools.

Wednesday, Jan. 31 to encourage supporters nationwide to showcase the great accomplishments and contributions of Catholic schools to our country. In Washington, a delegation of more than 150 Catholic school students, teachers and parents will visit Capitol Hill to meet with congressional leaders to promote Catholic schools. They will hand-deliver letters from chief administrators of Catholic education to their representatives and provide a background package on Catholic schools to every congressional office.

Schools in other parts of the country are encouraged to carry their message of good news to local and state officials. ☩



Msgr. Dan Huber, Sister Kevin Clavin, OP, Sister Edith Marie Hauser, OP and Rev. Jim Koenigsfeld at the recent St. Columba School Appreciation Day. More than 300 students, parents and parishioners gathered to honor the two women who have for more than 23 years ensured Catholic education of the finest caliber is available to the families in the Durango area. As part of the festivities, the women were presented with an engraved chalice purchased by the students to be used at daily Mass.

St. Columba, Durango, sets CSW schedule

DURANGO- For the students, staff, parents and parishioners at St. Columba in Durango, the celebrations for Catholic Schools Week 2007 begin early January 27 with the an all-school Mass at 5 p.m. The students will sing in the choir, be lectors and servers as well as actively participate in the Eucharistic Liturgy.

A family poster contest will be conducted for preschool through third grade students on the national theme: "Catholic Schools; The Good News in Education." These artistic creations will then be displayed in the Church, at Mercy Medical Center and the Durango Mall. Award ribbons will be given for the top three posters in each grade.

Fourth grade through eighth grade will compete in an essay contest on the same theme. These too, will be given awards

for the best content, spelling and composition. Some will be selected to be published in the monthly newsletter while others will be shared with classmates.

A highlight of the week is the religion quiz bowl on January 31 at 9 a.m. This event challenges the students from kindergarten through eighth grade to answer religion questions at their grade level before classmates, parents and friends.

Later that day, the faculty joins in the fun as the students challenge them to a basketball game.

To reinforce, the fact that the school promote community, the week ends on Friday, February 2 with *Fun Day*, a carnival atmosphere of "fun & games" raises in money for the missions. School is dismissed at day at noon as a reward for being a part of a catholic school. ☩

Applications open for Diaconate Class of '11

PUEBLO- Bishop Arthur N. Tafoya announced plans for starting a new diaconate class in September 2007 for those who have a call to serve the church as clergy. Applications are open to those who would be 35 years old at the time of ordination. The Bishop considers applications on a case-by-case basis.

This four-year formation program consists of a one year of discernment in the Aspirancy Phase followed by three years of Academic, Spiritual and Pastoral Formation.

Classes will be held in Cañon City during one weekend per month from September through December and February through May with an annual retreat in June. Candidates pay for their own room, meals, books and transportation.

Informational nights on the Permanent Diaconate will be held at 7 p.m. in the deaneries as follows: January 16 at St. Columba in Durango; January 17 at the Shrine of St. Therese in Pueblo; January 17-18 at St. Mary's in Montrose; January 22 at St. Francis de Sales in Lamar; and, January 23 at Our Lady of Guadalupe/St. Patrick in La Junta.

The vocation of the deacon, like all vocations, flows from his baptism and the call to become a disciple of Jesus Christ. The discernment of a vocation to the diaconate will expand on this prior vocation of Christian discipleship. The deacon is called to his vocation by God, and also through the community of believers.

No one can simply nominate himself to become a deacon; rather, the Church relies on the input of his pastor and others in his parish community who can speak of his suitability for this vocation.

The permanent deacon is an ordained minister of the Catholic Church. He receives the "first" order in the sacrament of Holy Orders. Like priests and bishops, he becomes a member of the clergy, but unlike them, he may first be married.

The deacon is ordained to be a symbol, or an icon, of the Church's mission of service, in imitation of Christ. As such, he is to promote, inspire, and coordinate the Church's ministries of service, especially the ministries of charity and peace.

The primary ministry of the deacon is the role of service. In fact, the title, "Deacon" comes from the Greek word which means service, diakonia. There are three types of service ministry that are connected with the diaconate.

Most permanent deacons are married. It is important to note that the wife of a deacon candidate must give her consent, and show concrete support of her husband's desire to seek this sacrament. She will often be his partner in ministry and will need to understand the sacrifices that will sometimes be required of the deacon and his family. A man who is not already married must make a promise of

Role of Diaconate service:

1. **Ministry of the Word** includes proclaiming the Gospel at the liturgy, preaching, catechetical instruction and other forms of teaching and counseling. Deacons also witness to the Gospel in their place of work and in everyday social situations.

2. **Ministry of the Sacraments and Liturgy**, when the Church gathers at the Eucharist, the deacon both articulates the needs of the people during the general intercessions, and prepares the gifts at the altar. He also presides at the solemn celebration of baptism, marriage and funeral rites.

3. **Ministry of Charity and Justice** is the area of service that Pope John Paul II called "the most characteristic" of the deacon. The deacon is at the forefront of the Church's outreach to the poor and disadvantaged. He knows the social teachings of the Church, and is able to animate the people of God to work for systemic changes in society. A deacon whose wife dies may not remarry, unless explicitly given permission to do so by the Vatican.

To help assure that a permanent deacon can fulfill his responsibilities and meet the demands of his chosen ministry, the Diocese of Pueblo seeks the following qualities in a prospective candidate: ■ A solid faith in God ■ A clear understanding of the Church, its current teaching and role in today's world. ■ A sense of call to serve the people of God as a deacon. ■ An understanding and willingness to accept the demands of a lifelong commitment to diaconal ministry in the Church. ■ At least 31 years old at the start of formation (the minimum age for ordination is 35, as prescribed by Canon Law) ■ Active participation in the Catholic faith- Baptism, Confirmation, and Matrimony (if married) all within the Catholic Church. ■ Evidence of service in the Church, with some demonstrated leadership roles. ■ Approval and support of the parish (ie. the pastor and the parish council). ■ Sufficient economic security and job stability. ■ Good health - physical and psychological. Personal and psychological stability. ■ Ability to work well with others. Openness to ongoing personal and spiritual growth. ■ Ability to handle college level studies. ■ If applicant is single, he must remain celibate. ■ If married, give evidence of a stable, growing marriage, and have the consent and support of his wife. ☩

For information, call or e-mail the Diaconate Office, 1-800-354-2729, Ext. 116, jshafer@dioceseofpueblo.com

Holy Family, Grand Junction celebrates CSW

GRAND JUNCTION- Holy Family Catholic School in Grand Junction celebrates Catholic education with a week of spelling bees, class cheers, talent shows, ice cream sundaes, service projects, and a parent community meeting.

On Monday, January 29, the annual Raffle fund raiser will begin.

The highlight of the week is the celebration of the Feast of St. John Bosco, patron of religious education, led by the Reverent Bishop Arthur Tafoya and concelebrated by the parish priests, Fathers Mike Smith, SJ, Edmundo Valera, PhD, and Mark Bettinger.

Bro. William Campbell, OM, Associate Executive Director of Elementary Education for the National Catholic Education Foundation completed leading our last long-range planning meeting at Holy Family in December.

The committee comprised of parents, teachers, community members, and clergy focused on the four areas of Academic/Staff Development, Communica-

tions, Finances/Development, Safety/Security.

Data gathering was based on surveys adapted from the accreditation materials developed by the Office of Catholic Schools for the Archdiocese of Denver ☩



Holy Family students, Katherine and Greg Gibson and Katie Bremner, decorate the tree with chrismsons - symbols of Christ.

