

# Deanery II-C Catholic Education Newsletter

Deanery II-C

Parishes & Schools

Episcopal Vicar:  
Most Rev. Francis J. Kane

**St. Alphonsus**  
1429 W. Wellington Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60657  
773-525-0709  
Pastor: Rev. James F. Hurlbert

**St. Andrew**  
3546 N. Paulina Street  
Chicago, IL 60657  
773-525-3016  
Pastor: Rev. John A. Farry

**St. Benedict**  
2215 W. Irving Park Road  
Chicago, IL 60618  
773-588-6484

**St. Benedict High School**  
Pastor:  
Rev. Robert J. Heidenreich

**Gordon Tech High School**  
3633 N. California Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60618  
773-539-3600  
President: Rev. Joseph Glab, CR

**Immaculate Heart of Mary**  
3817 N. Christiana Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60618  
773-478-1157  
Pastor: Rev. James F. Blazek

**St. Mary of the Lake**  
4200 N. Sheridan Road  
Chicago, IL 60613  
773-472-3711  
Pastor: Rev. James A. Colleran

**St. Matthias**  
2310 W. Ainslie Street  
Chicago, IL 60625  
773-506-2191  
Pastor: Rev. Terence M. Keehan

**Our Lady of Lourdes**  
4640 N. Ashland Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60640  
773-561-2141  
Pastor: Rev. Curtis A. Lambert

**Our Lady of Mercy**  
4432 N. Troy Street  
Chicago, IL 60625  
773-588-2620  
Pastor: Rev. Joseph P. Tito

**Queen of Angels**  
4412 N. Western Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60625  
773-539-7510  
Pastor: Rev. William J. O'Brien

**St. Thomas of Canterbury**  
4827 N. Kenmore Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60640  
773-878-5507  
Pastor: Rev. Richard Simon

**Transfiguration of Our Lord**  
2609 W. Carmen Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60625  
773-261-7953  
Pastor: Rev. Terence M. Keehan

## Preparing the way... Catholic Education on the rise!

Volume I, Issue I

November 28, 2004

### History of Our Catholic Identity

**C**onsider... is your life on fast-forward with little hope of slowing it down? Well not only are our personal lives and those of our families in flux, so is our neighborhood. People are moving in and others are moving out. New condos appear everywhere as old buildings give way to new lifestyles. Property taxes, utilities, school tuition even the price of milk are all upward bound to who knows where! Nice, neat parish communities have ceased to exist as the mobility and fluidity of our society have reached the doors of our churches and parish schools. It's the world of today always demanding adaptation and flexibility.

With this as our reality and backdrop, our Cluster of 11 parishes (Deanery II-C) have begun to examine the impact of what is taking place all around us. How can we best "be" Church in our neighborhood? The costs and demands are too great for us to charge ahead alone. But, we believe by working and sharing together we can be strong and united in facing the challenges of our future and that of generations to come. We would like to present to you a plan in the making.

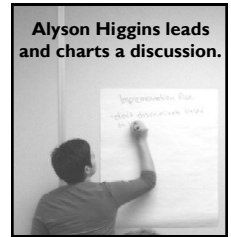
The vision of what Catholicism will be like, in the not too distant future, for the parishes of Deanery II-C began with a survey of the past. Some points to ponder:

- The 11 parishes of our deanery were basically established along ethnic lines from 1882 to 1916.
- Immigrant populations, foreign languages and cultures dominated – Gaelic, German and Polish.
- Each was a self contained community – since few people had cars and could travel great distances.
- There were a large number of religious sisters who were able and willing to teach in parish schools and a large number of diocesan priests to serve the people in each parish.
- Very few people moved – children who grew up in the neighborhood married and settled their families here.
- Parishes formed tight-knit religious and social communities with the individual parish often being a Catholics sole experience of the Church.
- Property values were stable.

In 100 years a lot has changed – **today...**

- Most of the people are more than second generation Americans. They are very diversified in culture, education, occupation and income.
- Proximity to a certain parish Church does not mean a family will worship there or send the children to school there. Families now shop around for parishes and schools.
- We are now a multi-ethnic community with many residents who speak English as a second language.
- Many people do not attend Mass every week in their home parish – our area now has a *multi-parish identity* with Mass times and other information published for people's convenience.
- There are almost no women religious teaching in our schools. Dedicated lay men and women (who in justice need to be paid a living wage) have replaced them. The number of parish priests to serve the people are one-third of the former force of priests.
- Our neighborhood is extremely mobile and the cost of housing is enormously expensive.
- We live in a vastly secular culture and our Catholic faith is often taken for granted. Further, many of the parents of today's young people received a limited education in faith and formation.
- Fully 50% of the children who are baptized are **not** now registered in any of our religious education or Catholic school programs.

Alyson Higgins leads and charts a discussion.



### What Will the Future Hold - Shaping Our Future Vision

#### PREAMBLE TO DEANERY II-C VISION STATEMENT

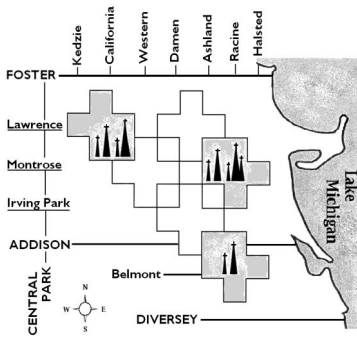
The Parishes of Deanery II-C believe Catholic education is a lifelong formation for the baptized in the teachings, values and beliefs of our Roman Catholic tradition. We therefore, adopt the following fundamental values in a spirit of cooperative planning and ministry.

We shall endeavor to:

- Recognize and maintain our ethnic diversity
- Welcome Catholics and non-Catholics
- Ensure and maintain the comfort and safety of all participants
- Make our goals realistic, measurable and attainable
- Be accountable to and open in our communication with one another

The Gospel and our shared Catholic Faith will guide our efforts and be the most important message that we share. We believe that together our Deanery II-C parish communities can accomplish our goals and become stronger, more viable and vital. By sharing resources we can create a new sense of community that challenges our traditional experience of parish.

## Deanery II-C



**Excited about The Vision?  
Want to get involved?  
Join a Team!**

Contact:

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stmatthias@archchicago.org

Fr. Curt Lambert, 773-561-2141  
ol-lourdes-ashland@archchicago.org

**Plan**

Christine Boyd  
Mary Reinhard  
Fr. Curt Lambert

Alyson Higgins  
Dorothy Yassan  
Fr. Terry Keehan

**2010-11**

**We're on the Web!  
www.deanery2c.com**

Preparing the way... Catholic Education on the rise!

## Vision Statement

The eleven parishes of Deanery II-C share a common vision for the Catholic education of our people. Using the most highly trained religious education ministers and teachers and the best quality educational tools, we propose to pool our parish resources in a joint endeavor ensuring that our entire community will have the opportunity to grow and be formed in their Catholic Faith, either in Catholic schools or in Religious Education programs. To reach this goal, parish facilities, people-resources and finances will be used in a collaborative way. These efforts will be inclusive and culturally sensitive reflecting the universal nature of our Church.

To accomplish this vision, planning groups will be formed around the following aspects:

1. Our Catholic Education will be **financially viable** for each parish **and affordable** for all parishioners.
2. Our **Plan for Catholic Education** will be **comprehensive and collaborative**.
3. Our Catholic Education will **evangelize our parishes toward a deeper Catholic Identity**.
4. Our Catholic Education will **reflect quality and address the unique needs and wants of our parishes, neighborhoods and deanery**.
5. In an ongoing way we will also investigate (using current demographics) and determine **which facilities and other resources support particular Catholic Education programs and missions**. We will work to update these and make them available.
6. Finally, having established **realistic, specific and measurable goals for each mission, we will evaluate their accomplishment** and plan for future implementation.

This Vision Statement was created by the collaboration of parish staff and lay leaders with the support of Archdiocesan facilitators.



### Planning Meeting of the Steering Group and the Action Team Leaders.

L to R: Karyn McGovern & Fr. Terry Keehan, St. Matthias; Fr. Bob Heidenreich, St. Benedict; Mary Kavanagh, St. Andrew; Dorothy Yassan, St. Matthias; Cathy O'Connell-Cahill, Our Lady of Mercy; Fr. Jack Farry, St. Andrew; Al Dumas, St. Benedict

The Steering Group oversees the efforts of the vision of Catholic Education in Deanery II-C, the work of the Action Teams and our plan going forward. Members of the Steering Group are:

- Fr. Bob Heidenreich, Pastor of St. Benedict Parish and Dean of Deanery II-C
- Fr. Curt Lambert, Pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish
- Fr. Bill O'Brien, Pastor of Queen of Angels Parish
- Fr. Terry Keehan, Pastor of St. Matthias and Transfiguration Parishes
- Christine Boyd, Principal of St. Thomas of Canterbury, St. Mary of The Lake and Our Lady of Lourdes Pre-School
- Mary Reinhard, Principal of St. Matthias/Transfiguration School
- Mary Kavanagh, Communication Coordinator, St. Andrew Parish
- Greg Gustin, Consultant for the Office of Catholic Schools for the Archdiocese of Chicago

Carol Palmer, Consultant for the Office of Catholic Schools, Julia Kelly, Principal of Queen of Angels and Mary Stachura, former Principal of St. Matthias/Transfiguration have served with the group, but do not do so currently. The Steering Group has been meeting regularly and coordinating the efforts of this project since January 2003.

**Next Issue: The Vision and Implementation - learn what is being done!**