



CATHOLIC TEACHERS UNION

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From the President

Fellow CTU Members,

It is my hope that everyone is doing well as the first quarter comes to an end. It is hard to believe that the holiday season is at our doorstep.

As a brief introduction to those who may not know me, my name is Bob Cranston, and I am the new president of the Catholic Teachers Union. Prior to becoming president this year, I was fortunate to have held the positions of executive vice president, treasurer and area vice president for CTU. I firmly believe that unions benefit workers overall, and I am looking forward to working with our executive board to continue to strengthen our union and support all of the teachers at Camden Catholic, Holy Spirit and Paul VI during my tenure as president.

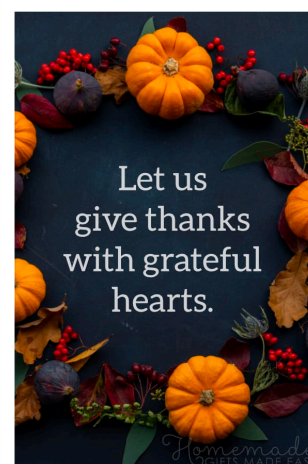
I am excited to be working alongside our seasoned board members, Maureen Simzak (Paul VI), Scott Higbee (Holy Spirit), and Len Cava (Paul VI) who bring such a wealth of knowledge and experience to the board, and I am looking forward to working with our new members, Ben Jones (Paul VI), Jamie Bottino (Paul VI), Kelly Ogle (Paul VI) and Bob Moffett (Camden Catholic) who have already brought valuable insights and ideas to our organization.

I would also like to thank all of the former board members with whom I have worked over the years, especially Mary Kay Rossi, Kevin Gallagher, and Bill Blumenstein. Their service and dedication to the union has been invaluable.

I realize that I am mentioning quite a few individuals in this letter, but I believe that it is important to acknowledge the people that have worked so hard for the union in the past and also those who will continue doing the work going forward. Finally, I would be remiss if I did not also recognize and thank you, the members, for all of your dedication as educators and support for the union over the years. We would not be where we are today without you. I am proud to be a part of such a great organization.

On behalf of the executive board, I would like to wish everyone and their families a Happy Thanksgiving.

Bob Cranston
CTU President



Executive Board

Bob Cranston (CCHS)
President

Ben Jones (PVI)
Executive Vice
President

Maureen Simzak (PVI)
Executive Secretary

Jamie Bottino (PVI)
Treasurer

Delegates

Bob Moffett (CCHS)

Scott Higbee (HSHS)

Kelly Ogle (PVI)

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Layout/Editor: Len Cava (PVI)



CATHOLIC TEACHERS UNION

From the Executive Vice President

Dear Members of the Catholic Teachers Union (CTU),

I am truly delighted to extend a warm and heartfelt welcome to all of you as we gather once again in the spirit of unity and purpose. As the newly appointed vice president of CTU, I am honored to have this opportunity to serve this remarkable community of educators, each of whom plays an indispensable role in the development of our young minds and the nurturing of our faith. CTU stands as a testament to our shared commitment to academic excellence and the profound influence of Catholic values in education.

We, as educators, have the privilege of inspiring the next generation with values that transcend the classroom. In the coming months, we look forward to building upon

our cherished traditions, while also embracing new opportunities to enhance the educational experiences of our students. I am eager to work collaboratively with each one of you, and I believe that by coming together, we can inspire, learn, and grow in profound ways.

Thank you for your dedication, your unwavering commitment, and your tireless efforts to make our schools beacons of faith and knowledge. May this academic year be filled with blessings and countless opportunities to make a positive impact on the lives of our students.

Ben Jones
CTU Executive Vice President

Treasury Report

As of September 2023, CTU is operating with a balance of \$165,848.75. The largest expense to note from the end of last year is the general membership meeting. With the dues collected this school year and increasing interest rates on our investments, we remain in good financial standing. Our net assets during the fiscal year ending August 2023 increased by \$9,132. We continue to strive for growth and stability as we enter a new school year.

I am thrilled to be taking over as CTU treasurer this upcoming year. I want to thank Matt Hoover for the work that he has done in this role and the rest of the CTU executive board for welcoming me aboard. As always, detailed quarterly financial reports can be found on the CTU membership page along with the fiscal year report for 2022 – 2023. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns. Have a great year!

Jamie Bottino
CTU Treasurer

Report of Schools

Camden Catholic High School

Teachers at Camden Catholic are working under their first year of a four-year contract.

CCHS held its very successful Open House event on the evening of October 26th.

We welcome the following new teachers “into the fold” at CCHS this year: Andrew James (Social Studies), Matthew Pluta (Guidance), Lauren Campbell (Guidance Long-Term Substitute), Brianna Vassallo (English), and Mia Ippolito (Art Long-Term Substitute).

We also celebrate and congratulate the following three faculty members and their families on the recent births of their new babies: Jared Clark (daughter Amiyah Naomi), Mia DeCrescenzo (son Max Daniel), and Amanda Weber (son Carson Joseph).

On a sad note, we mourn the recent loss of retired teacher Jack Phipps, who passed away in September. Before his retirement, Jack was a guidance counselor and math teacher, as well as a mentor and friend to so many at CCHS for 53 years.

Bob Cranston
CTU President



CATHOLIC TEACHERS UNION

Report of Schools *continued*

Holy Spirit High School

Every school year begins with high hopes and this one was no different. While we still have not found a part-time Latin teacher, our other teacher needs were filled. Unfortunately, we lost a dedicated teacher, Kate Villano, who unexpectedly passed away in her sleep only a few days into cancer treatment. Kate was a Holy Spirit grad who was loved by all. Dave Pfeifer, who retired last year after teaching at Spirit for over 50 years, has agreed to cover Kate's classes until we find another history teacher.

We are also looking for a long-term substitute Spanish teacher. We did have a good teacher in that position, but about a week into the school year she was diagnosed with an illness that forced her to resign. A few weeks into the term, a math teacher resigned to take another position. We are still advertising for both of these jobs as well.

On the positive side, we are very pleased to welcome Jessica Ciampo to our Guidance Department and wish her the best.

The students have been pretty resilient as usual. We celebrated our opening mass with Bishop Sullivan, had an enjoyable senior carnival, and saw the music department run a very successful Trunk or Treat.

Our Open House is scheduled for Monday, October 30th, and on Saturday, November 4th, we will host our Second Annual Blue and Gold Auction Night in the gymnasium. This event was a huge success last year.

We wish you all a very good school year.

Scott Higbee
HS Delegate

Paul VI High School

Paul VI is off to a good start in the school year. We began the year with a few scheduling and contractual issues that have since been resolved. Administration had scheduled more than maximum student load in one class and more than the roster maximum of 165 for a teacher. PVI also has a new schedule this year that includes both a morning and midday homeroom. This allows more time for announcements to occur and for students with a full schedule of classes to have a 20-minute lunch break.

Our school president, Michael Chambers, reported at our opening faculty meeting that we opened this year with an 81k deficit. Most of this deficit comes from the expense of paying for eight buses to transport students to PVI. However, things are looking hopeful for a balanced budget at the year end, with an uptick in freshman enrollment over last year and an overall enrollment of over 1,000 students. Our annual school fundraiser is this month, and the school is hopeful to reach its goal of \$78,750.

Kelly Ogle
PVI Delegate

Contact Information

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