

THE CCSE SPIRIT

THE CATHOLIC COALITION FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

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CCSE President Francesca Pellegrino with, from left, Caroline Bodley, Theresa Brogan and Gina Baldini.

Seven Schools, Teacher Receive Grants To Benefit Students with Special Needs

The Catholic Coalition for Special Education has awarded \$90,720 in grants since September 2010 to seven area Catholic schools through its Believe in Me! Grant-Making Program to develop or expand programs for students with intellectual and physical disabilities and special learning needs.

In addition, CCSE awarded its first-ever Tuition Grant for Advanced Study in Special Education to a resource teacher pursuing a master's degree in special education.

Five "Believe in Me!" grants were presented to teachers and staff at the Fifth Annual Grant Awards Ceremony held at St. John the Evangelist School in Silver Spring last fall. These educators each expressed their gratitude to CCSE and spoke enthusiastically on behalf of their schools and of the children who would directly benefit from these grants. Of this year's recipients, two schools are starting new programs, and a third is in the planning stages of launching a new program.

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CCSE 2011 Spring Benefit Raises Record Sums, Awareness

CCSE has held its most successful Spring Benefit ever, raising an estimated \$180,000 to further its work expanding Catholic school education programs for students with intellectual disabili-



Benefit attendees include Lucy Collins, Cassidy Abbott, Susan Abbott, Joanie Friel, Georgia Collins, Benefit Chair Carin Collins and her husband Stephen Collins.

ties. The amount represents an increase of almost \$50,000 in contributions over last year.

Some 325 people attended the gala and auction, held at a country club in Chevy Chase, including educators and officials from the Archdioceses of Washington and Baltimore, experts in the disabilities field, and families and friends of students with special needs.

The funds will be used to support all CCSE programs.

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Bridge to the Future

Middle Schoolers Ponder Next Move

"If you build it, they will come."

That line, invoked years back in the movie *Field of Dreams*, could easily be voiced today by local Catholic school parents of students with intellectual disabilities who are looking beyond their parish school and wondering what's next for their child.

CCSE works to help local Catholic schools establish programs to support students with special needs. However, with a few exceptions, most of the schools that offer this programming have been primary schools.

Now, as students who have benefitted from CCSE grants age, there's a burgeoning group of students with intellectual disabilities who, in the next few years, will be seeking a Catholic high school to call home.

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Bishop McNamara President Marco Clark and school staff accept the grant from Francesca Pellegrino.

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CCSE Grants continued from page 1

In January 2011, CCSE awarded another two grants to first-time recipient Brookewood School, Kensington, and Our Lady of Mercy School, Potomac. Grants ranged from \$30,000 to \$2,000.

For the 2010-2011 school year recipients and grants are:

- **Our Lady of Lourdes School, Bethesda**, to help fund the salary of a full-time special education teacher and to support the continuation and growth of their program.
- **Holy Cross Elementary School, Garrett Park**, to help fund the salary of a qualified special education teacher.
- **Bishop McNamara High School, Forestville**, to help fund the St. Joseph's Program, serving students who are on the Autism spectrum, have ADHD and other learning disabilities.
- **Brookewood School, Kensington**, to help fund the salary of a para-professional for a newly enrolled student with Down syndrome. Brookewood's program is new.
- **St. Clement Mary Hofbauer School, Baltimore**, to help fund the salary of a full time para-educator in support of a student with Down syndrome in an inclusion setting. This will be St. Clement Mary's first program for students with intellectual disabilities.
- **St. Francis International School, Silver Spring**, to help fund the salary of the Director of Student Services serving students with known and documented disabilities.
- **Our Lady of Mercy School, Potomac**, to purchase developmentally appropriate instructional technology materials for use by students in their Inclusion Program.
- **Tara Quinn Zancan**, resource teacher, Holy Cross Elementary School, Garrett Park, to help fund a master's degree in special education ---which Zancan says is especially meaningful to her as she grew up a child with learning disabilities.



St. John the Evangelist staff, previous grant recipients, served as ceremony hosts. From left, Fr. Michael Brieese, Kelly Burgess, Claire North, Sr. Kathleen Lannak, pastor Msgr. John Pennington, and students Gina Baldini and Theresa Brogan.

The Grantees

Bishop McNamara High School
Brookewood School
St. Clement Mary Hofbauer School
Holy Cross Elementary School
Our Lady of Lourdes School
Our Lady of Mercy School
St. Francis International School
Tara Quinn Zancan

Our Lady of Lourdes Grows Its Program

In the last five-and-a-half years, the Resource program at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School in Bethesda has doubled. Students with learning disabilities have always received resource support at Lourdes, but in recent years, we have been approached by families with children who had more significant learning needs. Lourdes, a three-time recipient of CCSE grants, attributes much of this growth to the support of the Catholic Coalition for Special Educations.

Believing that Catholic education must be an option for all children, Lourdes began to accept students with low incidence disabilities such as Autism spectrum disorders, Down syndrome and Williams syndrome. Lourdes classroom teachers, supported by the resource teachers, make every effort to ensure their special needs students are integrated into the classroom life. Teachers differentiate instruction for their students with special needs; resource teachers provide alternate assessment and instruction.

Last summer, this growth necessitated the physical expansion of the school's program. While CCSE provided financial assistance for teachers, the school hired construction crews who expanded the Resource Room. They raised the ceiling, knocked down a wall to a supply closet, added a window, lights, closets, and a built-in countertop. The room was re-painted and the SMART board, central heat and air conditioning were installed.

The work has been messy and chaotic at times, but the business of educating children can be that way. Parents, priests and teachers work together to support students academically, spiritually and socially. The students of Lourdes incorporate their classmates with special needs in quiet and subtle ways – by simply reminding them where to go, or by helping them organize papers; by clarifying the rules of a game or the directions for an activity. Likewise Lourdes parents have come to know and love these students with special needs.

Our mission of inclusion has proved successful: special needs students participated in overnight ski trips, our spelling bee, student council elections, our middle school play, choir, the talent show, and sports teams. They are invited to birthday parties and on play dates.

Our faith teaches us we must do more than “tolerate” people with special needs. We are called to recognize the dignity in every human being, and treat every person with respect and care. This year we are graduating two students with low incidence disabilities. One is going to The Heights and the other is choosing between DeMatha and Carroll high schools. Both will leave their mark on our school and our hearts, and they will most certainly change their new school communities for the better.

Patricia McGann
Principal, Our Lady of Lourdes, Bethesda



Teacher Joanie Friel works with a student.



8th grader Scott Lesmes reads to younger students.

Spring Benefit 2011 continued from page 1

"We're thrilled with the success of this year's benefit. With each succeeding year CCSE is gaining recognition and support from those in our community who recognize this is a social justice issue," said CCSE Board Member and Benefit Chair Carin Collins. "We want to ensure that students with intellectual disabilities have the same opportunity for a great Catholic education as their typically developing brothers, sisters and neighbors. It's critical that we ensure the programs are available."

Since it began CCSE has awarded more than \$400,000 to 14 local Catholic grade and high schools that have established or expanded inclusive programming. CCSE grant recipients say those funds have enabled them to live out the Gospel message of welcoming all children.

The message was reiterated by the evening's Master of Ceremonies, Rev. William Byrne, Secretary for Pastoral Ministry and Social Concerns, Archdiocese of Washington and Pastor at St. Peter's Church, Capitol Hill.

"Every child of God is planned," Fr. Byrne said, "and we as Catholics need to welcome every child, not just some children, into our churches and schools to learn in the Catholic faith."

One Benefit guest, Madeleine Will, Director of the Policy Center for the National Down Syndrome Society, praised CCSE's "pioneering" work welcoming students with intellectual disabilities into Catholic schools. "It's clear that the efforts of CCSE are going to lead to better outcomes for these students as they graduate and go on into their adult lives," she said. "They can live more meaningful, productive lives because they are part of a welcoming community."

The event featured the well received premiere of CCSE's new video, produced at no cost to the organization by Ann Principe, sister of event chair Carin Collins. The CCSE Spring Benefit 2011 video can be viewed on the CCSE website at www.ccse-maryland.org.

Spring Benefit auction items included travel packages to the Big Apple, San Francisco and wine country, Disney World and a special trip to attend the Emmy Awards Ceremonies.



Enjoying themselves at the 2011 Benefit are, from left, Meghan Quinn, Maria Guadalupe, and Amanda McMurtie Herndon.

Benefit sponsors included DLA Piper, McCormick Spices, Ruppert Companies, and the Stephen and Mary Brogan and William J. Page families. The Ritz-Carlton donated seven accommodations packages at hotels around the country.

Throughout the evening-- which included dancing by adults and school children alike-- school educators, parents and students from Washington and Baltimore archdiocesan schools that have received CCSE grants asserted that they have benefitted from the inclusive programming as much as their students with special needs.

Both research and empirical evidence show that "students with disabilities do better when they are educated alongside typically developing students," Will said, "and we also have evidence that typically developing students perform better academically and have better social skills when they are educated alongside students with disabilities."

2010 Spring Benefit Marks 5th Successful Year



The 2010 benefit guests included Mark Shriver, Christine Reed, Marguerite Kirst and Chip Reed. The evening included a tribute to Shriver's late mother; Eunice Kennedy Shriver, whose founding of the Special Olympics served as an inspiration for the founding of CCSE. The 2010 Spring Benefit, held at the Embassy of Italy, under the patronage of the Italian Ambassador H.E. Giulio Terzi, raised more than \$130,000.



Seen at the Spring Benefit are, from left, CCSE Treasurer Paul Nolan of McCormick Spices, a Benefit sponsor; wife Janet Nolan, Martha and Herve Humler, President and COO of the Ritz-Carlton, which donated auction packages.

We Can Help Your School

"Believe in Me!" Grants

If your Catholic school is located in Washington, D.C. or Maryland and is considering expanding or creating a program to enroll two or more students with developmental/intellectual disabilities who would benefit academically and spiritually from qualified special education instruction, CCSE invites you to submit a proposal for a "Believe in Me!" Grant. Funds from CCSE can be applied to hiring special education staff and to purchasing materials necessary to provide appropriate accommodations and adaptations to the curriculum.

Tech Assistance

To promote and facilitate implementation of special education instruction in Catholic schools, CCSE will fund a limited number of technical assistance seed visits in Washington, D.C. and Maryland.

Technical assistance includes support in:

- developing a Disabilities Awareness Program;
- in-service training;
- co-teaching and collaborative teaching strategies;
- establishing and designing a new program and a daily schedule specifically tailored to the students' needs;
- defining the Admissions process, re-viewing IEP's and educational reports;
- establishing a peer mentoring program;
- implementing appropriate modifications and accommodations.

Tuition Grants

Advanced Studies in Special Education

CCSE recognizes there is a chronic and pervasive shortage of special education teachers qualified to provide individualized special education instruction in the classroom. To help offset this shortage CCSE has established the Teacher Tuition Assistance Program to provide financial assistance to teachers and other professionals pursuing advanced degrees in special education.

- To learn more about "Believe in Me!"

Grants or technical assistance see: www.ccse-maryland.org/schools.html.

- For online information about Tuition Grants see:

www.ccse-maryland.org/tuition.html.

- For more information, contact CCSE at 301.933.8844 or grants@ccse-maryland.org

The President's Message

Helping Students Find School "Home" a Blessing for CCSE

Dear Friends,

Last year, CCSE celebrated its 5th Anniversary. In looking back to the early years, it's remarkable to see how far we've come in such a short time. In 2004, a group of determined Catholic parents and educators, well aware of a service gap in Catholic education, gathered to find a way to assist their parish elementary schools in developing safe and strong inclusion programs for children with intellectual disabilities. Thus at my Kensington dining room table the Catholic Coalition for Special Education was conceived. Since that beginning, CCSE, now a 501(c) 3 charitable organization, has provided tens of thousands of dollars annually to initiate, support, and assist Catholic school inclusion programs for children with disabilities. And we've widened our focus from ensuring elementary schools have programs in place to also ensuring high school programs do.

In five years, we have reached more than 5,000 students, teachers, and families in Maryland and CCSE has become well known for its willingness to tackle "mission impossible." Recently, Ricki Sabia, associate director of the National Down Syndrome Society's National Policy Center, had kind words to say about our efforts on behalf of CCSE.

"As someone who works on 'systems change' I know how rare it is to find someone who, instead of complaining when faced with an obstacle, decides to turn that experience into an opportunity to create change not just for her own child, but for others. Francesca Pellegrino is one of those rare people and I am proud to support her efforts at CCSE," Sabia said.

CCSE regularly receives pleas for assistance and hears heart-breaking stories. We



Francesca Pellegrino with son Alex and husband Frank.

provide both practical and spiritual support for parents on the journey of raising a child with a disability. CCSE also helps families navigate the complex maze of services by providing current information on programs and community resources.

Just two weeks before the start of the 2010-11 school year, CCSE received a call from Gina's parents who were frantically looking for a school to accommodate their daughter's needs. They had hit multiple roadblocks in their effort to obtain an appropriate education at the public school in which she was enrolled. CCSE was able to facilitate a last-minute placement for Gina at a parish school that several years earlier had begun enrolling children with special needs with the help of CCSE funding. Now, two paraprofessionals work with the Gina's classroom and resource teachers regarding Gina's education.

Gina's is a CCSE success story—but you may not be aware that there are many needs CCSE is unable to fulfill. In 2010 we received funding requests exceeding \$400,000—but we had resources to fund only \$100,000 in grant requests.

We look forward to helping more families of children with disabilities be able to call their local Catholic school "home." We want to say "yes" to more schools seeking to serve children with special needs. In particular, we urge local Catholic high schools to consider opening their doors to the burgeoning group of students with special needs currently enrolled in parish schools.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity. We look forward to many new friendships as the CCSE family grows.

FPellegrino.

*Francesca Pellegrino
President and Founder*

The CCSE Spirit

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Make A Difference Through CCSE

You can support students with developmental disabilities and the Catholic schools that serve them. Here's how:

DONATE AN ITEM ON OUR WISH LIST:

- tripod, portable pull-up projection screen
- storage cabinet
- filing cabinet,
- shredder
- water and fire-proof safe

Please call for specifications and other details.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

- **Accountant:** to volunteer a few hours monthly.
- **Fundraiser:** With experience in grant-writing and research, major gifts, etc.
- **Communicator:** With experience in media/ and public relations, messaging, writing, newsletter
- **IT Specialist:** To provide technical support for CCSE's Windows environment.

To donate or offer your services, contact Francesca Pellegrino or any board member: 301.933.8844 or info@ccse-maryland.org

Volunteer Spotlight

Volunteer Spotlight is a regular feature highlighting an individual or family who has offered distinguished service to CCSE.

Carin Collins is a founding member of CCSE and has served on the Board of Directors since November 2006. Her daughter Lucy, who has Down syndrome, attended Our Lady of Mercy School and then the Academy of the Holy Cross, both CCSE grantee schools.

Lucy was already a student at Our Lady of Mercy in Bethesda prior to the formation of CCSE. Collins recognized the uniqueness of her daughter's placement in a Catholic school and wanted to make that opportunity available to other families in other parishes. She believed children should be able to go to their own parish school with their siblings. "Our Catholic faith teaches us to accept and love and to be inclusive of others," Collins said. "I wanted to create awareness of the impact our kids are having on other kids, parents, and the community."

Collins set up the initial planning meeting between Francesca Pellegrino, who became CCSE's President, and Msgr. John Enzler, then pastor at Our Lady of Mercy. She encouraged others to join as well.

Watching her daughter thrive at Our Lady of Mercy and witnessing Lucy's classmates grow in their understanding and compassion inspired Collins to do everything in her power to expand CCSE's influence. Still, CCSE's early days were not always easy. It was challenging to convince schools to open their doors to students they hadn't served in the past.

Beginning in 2006, Collins has been instrumental in the success of the Spring Benefit, CCSE's biggest income producer, according to Pellegrino. She's expanded the organization's contacts and increased attendance, as well as donated numerous valuable Auction items, including, most memorably, a red Vespa scooter. This year,

as Events Committee chair, Collins heads up the Spring Benefit "If You Believe in Me...I'll Believe in Me!" And two years ago Collins helped organize CCSE's first Fall Family Festival, held at the Stephen and Mary Brogan family home.

"Carin has been involved in CCSE since the very early days, before it was even incorporated. She has contributed enormously to CCSE's growth. Without her, CCSE wouldn't be where it is today," says Pellegrino.

Collins believes the key to propelling CCSE to its next growth stage is in establishing fully operational and populated Board Committees that include not just Board members but a hearty crew of volunteers as well. This transition, while challenging, is essential, she says.

Collins, who supports Catholic education for its spiritual and academic formation, believes including students with disabilities enhances the education and faith development for all students. This process always begins with the child.

"When a family approaches a school and asks for help directly, the encounter is personal. Together, the family and the school can work to agree on expectations. The prospect of including a child under these circumstances becomes manageable instead of overwhelming."

And, she says, CCSE plays a crucial role in helping to make this education possible.

Teresa Perez, parent to child with special needs & CCSE volunteer



Stephen and Carin Collins and their children.



YES! I WISH TO HELP TURN A PARENT'S DREAM INTO REALITY!

YES, I wish to make a donation to CCSE, Inc. to support students with developmental disabilities and the Catholic Schools which serve them. I understand that my donation is tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

ENCLOSED IS MY TAX-DEDUCTIBLE GIFT:

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 \$500 \$250 Name on card _____ Verification Number* _____
 \$150 Other Amount \$ _____ (*three digit code on the back of your card) _____
 Your Name: _____ Your Signature: _____
 Address: _____ Telephone: _____
 Your email address: _____ My company will match this gift (please check the box)
 Please use the following name(s) when acknowledging this gift: _____

PLEASE MAIL YOUR GIFT TO CCSE, INC. P.O. BOX 673, KENSINGTON, MARYLAND 20895

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Bridge to the Future: Middle Schoolers Ponder Next Move

Only a handful of Catholic high schools in the greater Washington-Baltimore metropolitan region offer programming for students with intellectual disabilities. Current and former CCSE grant recipients include: Brookewood School, Kensington; Mount St. Joseph High School, Baltimore; Bishop McNamara, Hyattsville; and Academy of the Holy Cross, Kensington.

"We don't expect enough from our Catholic schools when we allow these children to go unserved in our midst," says Barry Fitzpatrick, principal of Mount St. Joseph.

Fitzpatrick asserts that Catholic schools, charged with bringing Christ to the community in which they find themselves, are obligated to welcoming not just typical students, but their students' brothers and sisters who have special needs.

"This is about people believing that you can have a diverse school – a school that reflects the real world around it – and you can still be an academically excellent school," says Patricia McGann, principal of Our Lady of Lourdes, a parish school in Bethesda. "This is the message we can't seem to get across to adults."

One parent who is looking ahead is Debbie Copeland, whose daughter Samantha has had a positive experience at Our Lady of Lourdes, which has received several CCSE grants.

"Samantha has resource time and follows her schedule independently. She needs support in some classes, but as time goes on she is needing less," Copeland says. "If there were programs available, I would love for her to continue in a Catholic school environment. I'm hoping that by the time she gets to high school that a program will be in place."

Time is of essence to ensure the high school programs are in place, educators say. Mary Jo Puglisi, coordinator of the Archdiocese of Baltimore's PRIDE Program, says she has begun working with parents of a 7th grader and a Catholic high school to ensure a child with intellectual abilities can make that move.

Puglisi says, "While Mount. St. Joseph (boys' school) is doing a wonderful job; none of our all-girl schools have experience with students with intellectual disabilities. We have to build a program for our student. Fortunately, Mr. Fitzpatrick



Ben Stevick, graduates



Students from Bishop McNamara's St. Joseph Program, Forestville.

has expressed his willingness to share his expertise with the next willing principal." Mount St. Joseph, a Xaverian Brothers high school, answered the call via their St. Giles Program. **continued on page 7**

Who Wins? With Open Doors Entire Community Benefits

When Catholic schools open their doors to students with special needs, the whole community benefits say educators, parents and typically developing students.

That was the case, says Mary Bodley, when her daughter Caroline was admitted to St. Clement Mary Hofbauer in middle school. Caroline benefitted academically, socially and spiritually.

"The other students are way beyond feeling sorry for her," says Bodley, recalling Caroline's recent hip surgery when her daughter received a bouquet of "get well" notes from each student in the school. "They love Caroline for who she is as a person."

At the all-boys Baltimore school Mount St. Joseph, Principal Barry Fitzpatrick relates the story of senior Lou Damiano, whose experience with young men with

special needs had a significant impact on his outlook.

This year Damiano led a group on a retreat that brought together students from all 12 Xaverian Brothers-sponsored schools. Lou had to give a talk on one of the Xaverian values that guide the Mount: trust, compassion, zeal, simplicity, and humility. Lou chose simplicity, which he said he learned from young men in the school's St. Giles Program for students with intellectual disabilities.

On the way to gym class after Christmas break, Lou said he had encountered Patrick Kelly, a sophomore in the school's St. Giles program. Lou asked him what he got for Christmas and Patrick went on and on with great detail and excitement about a new pair of sweatpants he had received and that he was about to show off for

gym class. The pants were his favorite gift. Later in the gym, Lou watched Patrick light up with joy after sinking his only basket of the day, jumping up and down with more excitement than Lou could imagine. Lou told his audience that when he starts to think about his own problems or what material thing he doesn't have, he remembers his encounter that day with Patrick. He is reminded that such simplicity frees the mind, the heart and the soul for much more important things.

"Lou gets it," Fitzpatrick says, "and our school is much the better for Patrick and the others in the St. Giles Program."

Bridge to the Future continued from page 6

“Our program has always been designed to include the young men in it in the entire life of the community and, yes, that can be challenging,” Fitzpatrick says. “We sought out young men whose lives we could impact and whom we could hope would enjoy an independent life at some point after leaving us and moving to a similar program at the college level. We have been lucky to find just those kind of young men.”

And, Fitzpatrick says, the entire school community has benefitted. “Students who go to school with special needs kids will tell you over and over again – especially as they go to college and become adults – that their lives were enriched because they called a student with Down syndrome or Cerebral Palsy or Autism a friend,” Principal McGann says.

So why are there so few Catholic high schools accepting students with intellectual disabilities? “Certainly they are aware that the inclusion of students with special needs in their schools will have absolutely no negative effect on their SAT scores or their college admissions percentiles,” McGann says.

“Our Catholic high schools are all dedicated to teaching young men and women how to live as Catholics in the world of today, and yet they are reluctant to admit students who will only enrich the lives of their students, and prepare them to live and work in the world,” she says.

“What message are we sending to the community at large when we do not spend any monies on programs for students with special needs but we do build new stadiums and fancy locker rooms and gyms to take care of those with athletic talent?” Fitzpatrick asks. It is possible for schools to welcome students with special needs in a fiscally responsible way, he says.

“We can’t serve all of them, of course. We can serve some of them, though, and right now, we’re just not doing that,” Fitzpatrick says. “

The real question is ‘What are we about?’” Fitzpatrick asks. “It’s time we answered it honestly.”

Maria Olsen is a member of the CCSE Board of Directors and chairs the Schools Committee.

Welcome, Farewell Board Members

CCSE is pleased to welcome to the Board of Directors Marianne Rhoda, who is currently the Vice President of HRH Group Inc., a management company she started in 2005 to manage her daughter Hilary Rhoda’s modeling career. HRH is involved in international endeavors, as well as charitable events/donations. These include New Yorkers for Children, the Metropolitan Museum of Art MET Ball, and CancerCare, which helps the families of those fighting cancer. Marianne serves on CCSE’s Events Committee.

Farewell to Board member David Kane, who served with great distinction since March 2006.

CCSE also bids farewell to Ann Kern and thanks her for her service. Both Kane and Kern will be missed and we look forward to our continued association.

Archdiocese Hires L’Homme As Superintendent of Schools

CCSE is pleased to welcome Deacon Bert L’Homme who was appointed last summer as the Superintendent of Schools for the Archdiocese of Washington. L’Homme recently wrote a letter of endorsement to CCSE, which is now posted on the CCSE website.

According to the Archdiocese, he is an ordained deacon who has more than 30 years of education experience. L’Homme began his teaching career in Washington, DC before moving to North Carolina where he eventually became superintendent for the Franklin County Schools.

L’Homme holds a doctorate in Special Education/School Administration and bachelor degrees in Secondary Education/Psychology and History/Secondary Education from the University of Maryland in College Park, as well as a masters of

education in Special Education/Emotional Disturbance from American University in Washington, DC.

A resident of the District of Columbia, he serves as a permanent deacon at St. Francis de Sales parish in northeast Washington, DC, and is a volunteer chaplain at the DC Jail and a volunteer mentor with the Welcome Home faith-based reentry program for individuals leaving prison.

In his letter of endorsement, L’Homme called CCSE an “essential part” of the Archdiocese’s support system for students with special needs.

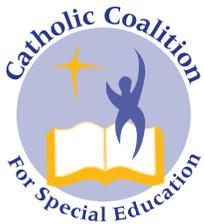
“Through your efforts, area Catholic schools that need financial assistance can hire faculty member with specialized training. Through your support, teach-



Deacon Bert L’Homme with CCSE Grants Committee Chairman Fernand Lavallee, Esq.

ers in our Catholic schools can receive grants to pursue a master’s degree in Special Education. And through your vision, our schools receive technical assistance through ongoing funding and successful inclusion strategies.

“You have my heartfelt thanks for helping to make Matthew 18:5 a reality in our schools: “Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me.”



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The mission of the Catholic Coalition for Special Education is to ensure that children with special needs are able to attend and receive an appropriate education in their local Catholic elementary schools and high schools. In the words of Pope Benedict XVI "no child should be denied his or her right to an education in faith, which in turn nurtures the soul of a nation." CCSE provides grants and technical assistance to help Catholic schools in Washington, D.C. and Maryland achieve this goal.



Enjoying themselves at the Spring Benefit are Joelle Packard, Theresa Brogan, Natalie Alzona Putz and Gina Baldini.

Proud Sponsor of the CCSE 2011 Spring Benefit



The William J. Page Family