



THANKS FOR MAKING NCEA A SUCCESS!



Meeting the Challenge at the Crossroads: NCEA Indy 2008

May 2008

Dear Partners in NCEA Indy 2008:

"Crossroads: Where Challenge Meets Opportunity" was the theme when approximately 7,000 Catholic educators met in Indianapolis March 25-28 for the 105th annual Convention of the National Catholic Educational Association and the National Association of Parish Catechetical Directors Convocation. It was the first time the Archdiocese of Indianapolis hosted this important gathering and by all accounts our guests had a wonderful experience.

Many thanks to the hundreds of you (students, parents, educators, clergy, musicians, catechetical leaders, corporate sponsors and others too numerous to mention) who all helped make NCEA Indy 2008 successful. Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein and all of us in the Office of Catholic Education are most grateful and realize that it is your work that generated the positive responses from participants.

I specifically want to recognize our local committees including the executive team and the management team for NCEA Indy 2008, along with their many subcommittees. Through their work and with the generous support of our corporate sponsors we were able to host receptions at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, the Indianapolis Museum of Art, a party for teachers, and the very successful Sacred Sounds Concert featuring the musical gifts of our students. These local organizers also created the welcoming environment for our participants and planned inspiring liturgies that helped remind us of our mission to spread the Gospel.

The Criterion staff worked with us to publish a great convention supplement with wonderful stories about our schools and parishes and we are grateful for them in assisting us in that endeavor. The supplement, provided to all convention participants through the benevolence of RCL/Benziger, may be accessed at www.archindy.org/ncea/, where you can also find follow-up stories and pictures from the event.

The Indianapolis Convention and Visitors Association staff was also generous in donating their time and expertise, as were the Catholic colleges of the Midwest. Through these partnerships, the archdiocese was able to host a wonderful convention and lay the foundation for further relationships that will benefit our students and schools.

Convention visitors attend the annual NCEA/NPCD event for spiritual and educational development. I believe our own St. Theodora Guérin, a foundress of Catholic education and faith formation in Indiana, would be proud that we made this opportunity possible for thousands to continue this tradition here in her mission territory.

May God bless all of you for your contributions to the success of NCEA Indy 2008!

Mickey Lentz

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