

Reilly Scholarship Winners

Winners of the 2012 John J. Reilly Memorial Scholarships have been chosen from a field of more than a dozen nominated high school seniors.

The scholarships are awarded annually to help defray the cost of a college education for outstanding children of NACST members.

The students will receive \$1000 in each of their four years of study, making each scholarship a \$4000 value over each student's course of collegiate studies.

Congratulations to the winners of the 2012 Reilly Scholarship:

Vivianne Mazzocco, FPDT,
Pittsburgh

Richard Mulhall, YDCT,
Youngstown

Jessica Walker, FPDT,
Pittsburgh

The scholarships are awarded in remembrance of John J. Reilly, the founding President of NACST.

NACST Convention

The 34th Annual NACST Convention/Conference will be held October 5-7, 2012 in Buffalo.

Keynote speakers are James Ryan, former President of the Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association [www.oecta.on.ca], and attorney Martin Milz, an attorney with the Philadelphia labor firm Spear, Wilderman.

Mr. Ryan brings a wealth of Catholic teacher union experience to convention delegates. He was both an elementary and secondary teacher. He was co-chair of the Ontario Coalition for Social Justice and served in all executive positions [except Treasurer] of the OECTA, the provincial union representing approximately 45,000 teachers in the Ontario Catholic schools.

Mr. Milz joined Spear, Wilderman after receiving a degree in Labor Studies and Industrial Relations from Penn State and completion of Temple University Law School, and, working for the Sheet Metal Workers Union Local 19 in Philadelphia.

Convention business includes Reports of Locals, the annual State of the Union President's Report and discussion of local union issues.



During a recent trip to Buffalo, NACST President Rita Schwartz met with Chris Rusin, SLTA President, Sue Manzella, DETA President and members of their locals.

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NACST Convention Moved

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The 34th annual NACST Convention was originally scheduled to be held at the Hyatt in Buffalo. Recently, however, UNITE HERE, the union representing hotel workers has called for a boycott of Hyatt.

Julius G. Getman (the Earl E. Sheffield Regents Chair, University of Texas School of Law and author of Restoring the Power of Unions) characterizes the Hyatt struggle as "a key element in the monumental task of restoring the private sector labor movement. The hospitality industry is vast and growing. UNITE HERE is a democratic member-centered union. It is seeking to organize the industry one hotel and one employer at a time. It is likely to be successful if Hyatt will agree to a system under which the workers without the pressure of a management campaign decide whether or not they wish union representation."

He states that the "confrontation between Hyatt and UNITE HERE is part of the world wide struggle for basic human rights, particularly for immigrant workers." Getman cites the following example of Hyatt's disregard for workers.

Here's what Hyatt did: At 3 o'clock on a Monday afternoon, Aug.31[2012], managers at two Hyatt-owned hotels in Boston and one Hyatt-managed hotel in Cambridge, in a coordinated effort, summoned their entire housekeeping staffs, fired everybody on the spot, and immediately outsourced the jobs to a staffing company based in Atlanta....

Here's what we gradually learned: That most of the 98 fired housekeepers were immigrant women; that some of them had been working for Hyatt for more than 20 years; that before they were fired, they were directed to train their replacements under the guise that the newcomers would be available to spell them during vacations.

In support of the hotel workers and UNITE HERE, the NACST Convention has moved to an alternate location, the Adams Mark Hotel.



NACST President Rita Schwartz and Executive Vice President Bill Blumenstein met in August with members of the recently chartered St. Peter's Prep Teachers Association [Jersey City NJ]

from the President...

LABOR DAY 2012 ANOTHER PORTRAIT ON THE UNION-BUSTING WALL OF SHAME

While May 1st, the feast of St. Joseph the Worker, is the feast day for all who labor in the Church's vineyards, Labor Day is a time to celebrate all that is good about being a union worker. And there is much to celebrate and be thankful for. Although, unions in Catholic institutions are, definitely, not without their challenges.

Each year, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops issues its Labor Day Statement and, each year, the Bishops present an uplifting message, one guaranteed to contain all the politically correct pronouncements of the Church's social justice teachings. This year, Bishop Stephen E. Blaire, Bishop of Stockton and the chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, writes about "Placing Work and Workers at the Center of Economic Life." Most notably for us, the Bishop states that "Catholic social teaching supports the right of workers to choose whether to organize, join a union and bargain collectively, and to exercise these rights without reprisal." Bishop Blaire ends the Labor Day Statement with a short prayer: "May God guide our nation in creating a more just economy that truly honors the dignity of work and the rights of workers." I would like to substitute a few words to make this prayer more Catholic union-friendly. "May God guide our Church in creating a more just environment that truly honors the dignity of work and the rights of workers."

Perhaps Bishop Blaire needs to sit down and have a chat with Archbishop John Nienstedt, Archbishop of St. Paul-Minneapolis. This past June, Archbishop Nienstedt became a union buster. The contract covering the employees of the archdiocesan newspaper was to expire on June 30. The Union was told that its request to open negotiations for a new contract was denied. The Archdiocese would no longer recognize the union. The Archdiocese, instead, would be using its own unilateral document called "Justice in Employment" which will, from now on, be all that governs wages, hours and working conditions. With this document came the assurance of the Archbishop that he stands solidly behind working people. Were the Archbishop practicing what the Church preaches, wouldn't he be standing with his workers? Evidently, Archbishop Nienstedt has not read Pope Benedict XVI's encyclical CARITAS IN VERITATE in which the pontiff states,

"Through the combination of social and economic change, trade union organizations experience greater difficulty in carrying out their task of representing the interests of workers. . . Hence traditional networks of solidarity have more and more obstacles to overcome. The repeated calls issued within the Church's social doctrine, beginning with Rerum Novarum, for the promotion of workers' associations that can defend their rights must therefore be honoured today even more than in the past, as a prompt and far-sighted response to the urgent need for new forms of cooperation. . ."

The actions of the Ordinary of St. Paul-Minneapolis are but the latest example of the Church's failure to uphold over a century of her social justice teachings. Once again, what our Church is actually teaching is "Do As I Say, Not As I Do."

The Union-Busting Wall of Shame has just acquired another portrait. Archbishop John Nienstedt of St. Paul - Minneapolis now joins his fellow union- busting bishops, Joseph Martino of Scranton-Wilkes Barre, John D'Arcy of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Roger Mahoney of Los Angeles and Sean O'Malley of Boston.

I would like to suggest to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops that they revisit the Church's social teachings and see how close to the mark they, themselves, are when it comes to the dignity of work and the rights of their own workers. That would be a Labor Day Statement that thousands and thousands of Church workers would absolutely love to see.



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Association of Catholic Teachers
(Archdiocese of Philadelphia PA)
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Catholic Teachers Union - NJ
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Bill Blumenstein

Central Ohio Association of Catholic Educators
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Cleveland High School and Academy Lay Teachers Association
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Diocesan Elementary Teachers Association
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(Diocese of Pittsburgh PA)
Russ DelVecchio

Greater Hartford Catholic Education Association
(Archdiocese of Hartford CT)
Paul Fitzpatrick

Greensburg Diocesan Teachers Association
(Diocese of Greensburg PA)
Thomasine Rose

from the Editor ...

The Strange Case of Bishop Jekyll and Archbishop Hyde

Bishop Blaire and Archbishop Nienstedt exemplify the split personality of the USCCB.

As chair of the conference's Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, Blaire wrote:

Our Church has long taught that unions are "an indispensable element of social life, especially in modern industrialized societies" (Laborem Exercens, 20) and are examples of the traditional Catholic principles of solidarity and subsidiarity in action. At their best, unions demonstrate solidarity by bringing workers together to speak and act collectively to protect their rights and pursue the common good. Unions are a sign of subsidiarity by forming associations of workers to have a voice, articulate their needs, and bargain and negotiate with the large economic institutions and structures of government. (from the USCCB's 2012 Labor Day statement: *Placing Work and Workers at the Center of Economic Life*)

As Ordinary of St. Paul - Minneapolis, Nienstedt busted the diocesan newspaper union.

The Church's magisterium is charged with proclaiming the Gospel values of social justice. When the actions of USCCB members are contrary to that teaching, the Church's teaching office faces losing its prerogative and, further, makes its teaching on social justice irrelevant.

That makes the work of Catholic school teachers, who continue to put the Church's social justice teaching into practice, even that much more significant.



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