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Memo to: NCEA ACRE Participant

From: Kelly Wagner

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Enclosed are the results of your administration of the NCEA's *Information For Growth Assessment of Children/Youth Religious Education (IFG: ACRE)*. We hope that you will find the results to be a helpful part of your total ongoing program assessment.

Depending upon the makeup of your particular class, you will receive several reports, which provide you with result summaries for your group of students. A **TOTAL GROUP** report is provided to all users. This provides data on all students in the class who completed an ACRE answer sheet; a report on **RETURNING STUDENTS ONLY** is provided **if** there were six or more returning students in your program; a **CATHOLICS ONLY** report is provided if you had six or more Catholics in your group, and finally, a report on **NON-CATHOLICS ONLY** will be included if you had at least six non-Catholics in your class. In all cases, a **minimum of six students is required** in order for a full report (containing data on the **confidential** sections of IFG: ACRE as well as the religious knowledge section) to be provided. This is done in order to help ensure the confidentiality of their responses.

The reports for the 2013 edition NCEA IFG: ACRE Assessment include national normative performance information and the reporting of results by NCEA standards based performance categories. This information has been added to provide alternative interpretive perspectives on student performance. These national statistics are based on all students sitting for the NCEA IFG: ACRE assessment during baseline academic year 2014-2015 (introduction/availability of the NCEA IFG: ACRE). The statistics were computed to represent the average for that year.

*Based on requests from many users and working with the NCEA, we have prepared and are distributing a summary of NCEA IFG: ACRE performance (assessment scores and Standards classifications) compiled based on where students receive their religious education instruction. These tables, which are attached, report results based on grade (5, 8, 9, 11 or 12), location (School or Parish program), and time of year when the NCEA IFG: ACRE was administered (Fall, Winter, Spring of academic year 2015-2016). These reports are attached to this letter.*

In interpreting your reports, we suggest that you review the *NCEA IFG: ACRE Interpretation Manual*. The Interpretation Manual leads you through an in-depth study of your reports.

Thanks once again for your participation in NCEA IFG: ACRE. If we can be of assistance to you in clarifying elements of your report, please feel free to write to us at our address above.

## Tables Reporting the Performance of Specific Groups on the NCEA IFG: ACRE

At the request of dioceses, parishes and schools that use NCEA IFG: ACRE, we have compiled separate reports for schools and parishes to show the performance of NCEA IFG: ACRE students who sat for the assessment last academic year (fall 2015 through summer 2016). For greater detail, the reports are given in a variety of ways to depict the performance of students assessed at grades 5, 8, 9, 11 and 12, and according to when these students sat for NCEA IFG: ACRE (Fall – August to November; Winter – December to February; Spring – March to June). Breakdowns are provided for school and parish programs separately. Many users requested that this information be separated to help them better sense their standing among like-religion programs. While the use of NCEA IFG: ACRE is intended to guide instructors to achieve standards of faith knowledge for all students regardless of venue (parish-based religion program or Catholic school), knowing where we stand as we move on this path can be re-assuring, informative, and motivating. We hope you find the tables that follow useful. If we can improve their benefits to you as a user, please let us know.

Statistical performance tables invariably have limitations. Therefore, please note the following as you examine and interpret the reports:

- NCEA IFG: ACRE is a voluntary program in some dioceses; required or mandated in others. The context in which assessments function has been shown to be related to performance. When interpreting these tables, remember that your students' motivation may impact total scores.
- Comparison to any group can be fragile at best, but is especially so when the numbers of students involved is very few (less than 400 to 500 at least). When you review your results, consider the stability of the comparison for your students' (when your scores are based on relatively few students, average scores can vary tremendously!) as well as the size of the group representing the "norm" (some are comprised of very few students assessed).
- Representativeness (how typical are your students, and how similar are your students to those in the norm) is a paramount standard when we compare the performance of one group (your class) to another group (results from all NCEA IFG: ACRE students assessed.). How well does the NCEA IFG: ACRE national assessed group "truly" represent all "national "students assessed"? To be candid, we cannot be sure. We will study this in the years ahead, but today, we are not certain. Thus, your direct comparison of your students' performance to those in these tables may not be a fair comparison.

What we stress and what is important is the notion of "absolute standards." By this we refer to the process that during the development phase of NCEA IFG ACRE, national panels of catechetical leaders and educators worked collaboratively to determine credible "performance standards." How your students "score" in relation to these independent criterion benchmarks is reported with the return of your local results. While comparison can be informative, it is NOT the goal of these assessments. The goal is to assist Catholic youth in our instructional programs to achieve the highest levels of faith knowledge, information and understanding. These tables are offered to help you answer the question, "Are you doing all you can locally to achieve this goal?"

The national scores summarized in the following tables are average percent correct scores from the component sections of Part 1 of the NCEA IFG: ACRE Assessment. Also provided is the national percent of students scoring in the three NCEA IFG: ACRE Performance Standard categories (Needs Improvement, Proficient, and Advanced). How to interpret these score data is provided in the NCEA IFG: ACRE Interpretation Manual that is available on our website. Contact ETS to aid you in understanding or interpreting the data tables. Contact NCEA to assist you in using the data to improve your religion programming.

**Grade 5 NCEA IFG: ACRE Scores of Students in Catholic Schools**

When assessed	No. of Students	Part I Total Score	Domain 1: Knowledge of Faith	Domain 2: Liturgical Life	Domain 3: Moral Formation	Domain 4: Prayer	Domain 5: Communal Life	Domain 6: Missionary Spirit
July thru Nov	4,327	66.0%	68.7%	63.1%	76.1%	61.1%	69.8%	49.7%
Dec thru Feb	26,964	70.4%	72.7%	69.6%	79.0%	65.2%	73.0%	55.6%
Mar thru June	26,993	72.9%	74.5%	72.2%	80.2%	69.0%	76.1%	59.8%
Annual Results	58,221	71.2%	73.2%	70.4%	79.4%	66.7%	74.2%	57.1%

**Performance of Grade 5 Students in Catholic Schools**

When assessed	Results	Performance Category		
		Needs Improvements	Proficient	Advanced
July thru Nov	Percent in Category	37.5%	51.5%	10.9%
	Number of Students	1,624	2,230	472
Dec thru Feb	Percent in Category	27.8%	54.0%	18.2%
	Number of Students	7,495	14,558	4,907
Mar thru June	Percent in Category	23.1%	52.8%	24.1%
	Number of Students	6,231	14,242	6,501
Annual Results	Percent in Category	26.4%	53.3%	20.3%
	Number of Students	15,372	31,034	11,820

**Grade 5 NCEA IFG: ACRE Scores of Students in Parishes**

When assessed	No. of Students	Part I Total Score	Domain 1: Knowledge of Faith	Domain 2: Liturgical Life	Domain 3: Moral Formation	Domain 4: Prayer	Domain 5: Communal Life	Domain 6: Missionary Spirit
July thru Nov	530	56.6%	59.7%	52.7%	70.0%	50.1%	58.9%	41.0%
Dec thru Feb	5,427	58.0%	60.9%	54.4%	70.9%	52.3%	61.9%	39.1%
Mar thru June	4,201	57.9%	60.9%	52.6%	69.7%	53.4%	62.2%	41.1%
Annual Results	10,158	57.9%	60.8%	53.6%	70.3%	52.6%	61.9%	40.0%

**Performance of Grade 5 Students in Parishes**

When assessed	Results	Performance Category		
		Needs Improvements	Proficient	Advanced
July thru Nov	Percent in Category	64.5%	32.6%	2.8%
	Number of Students	342	173	15
Dec thru Feb	Percent in Category	62.2%	33.6%	4.2%
	Number of Students	3,376	1,824	228
Mar thru June	Percent in Category	61.8%	32.2%	6.0%
	Number of Students	2,597	1,353	252
Annual Results	Percent in Category	62.2%	32.9%	4.9%
	Number of Students	6,318	3,342	498

**Grade 8 NCEA IFG: ACRE Scores of Students in Catholic Schools**

When assessed	No. of Students	Part I Total Score	Domain 1:	Domain 2:	Domain 3:	Domain 4:	Domain 5:	Domain 6:
			Knowledge of Faith	Liturgical Life	Moral Formation	Prayer	Communal Life	Missionary Spirit
July thru Nov	6,157	72.2%	71.3%	67.9%	80.4%	72.2%	60.6%	75.6%
Dec thru Feb	25,882	74.1%	73.1%	70.9%	81.2%	73.8%	63.9%	77.7%
Mar thru June	25,349	77.8%	77.2%	74.2%	84.2%	76.7%	68.5%	81.6%
Annual Results	57,401	75.5%	74.7%	72.1%	82.4%	74.9%	65.6%	79.2%

**Performance of Grade 8 Students in Catholic Schools**

When assessed	Results	Performance Category		
		Needs Improvements	Proficient	Advanced
July thru Nov	Percent in Category	31.6%	52.0%	16.5%
	Number of Students	1,946	3,202	1,016
Dec thru Feb	Percent in Category	27.6%	51.7%	20.8%
	Number of Students	7,143	13,381	5,384
Mar thru June	Percent in Category	20.7%	50.3%	29.0%
	Number of Students	5,247	12,751	7,351
Annual Results	Percent in Category	24.9%	51.1%	24.0%
	Number of Students	14,293	29,332	13,776

**Grade 8 NCEA IFG: ACRE Scores of Students in Parishes**

When assessed	No. of Students	Part I Total Score	Domain 1:	Domain 2:	Domain 3:	Domain 4:	Domain 5:	Domain 6:
			Knowledge of Faith	Liturgical Life	Moral Formation	Prayer	Communal Life	Missionary Spirit
July thru Nov	532	55.4%	50.1%	55.4%	65.9%	58.5%	44.0%	57.4%
Dec thru Feb	5,323	58.3%	54.0%	56.2%	69.7%	59.4%	48.1%	59.3%
Mar thru June	4,964	59.7%	55.1%	57.1%	71.0%	61.2%	49.7%	61.4%
Annual Results	10,819	58.8%	54.3%	56.5%	70.2%	60.2%	48.6%	60.2%

**Performance of Grade 8 Students in Parishes**

When assessed	Results	Performance Category		
		Needs Improvements	Proficient	Advanced
July thru Nov	Percent in Category	72.6%	24.2%	3.2%
	Number of Students	386	129	17
Dec thru Feb	Percent in Category	64.9%	31.3%	3.8%
	Number of Students	3,455	1,666	202
Mar thru June	Percent in Category	61.8%	32.4%	5.8%
	Number of Students	3,068	1,608	288
Annual Results	Percent in Category	63.9%	31.5%	4.7%
	Number of Students	6,913	3,408	509

**Grade 9 NCEA IFG: ACRE Scores of Students in Catholic Schools**

When assessed	No. of Students	Part I Total Score	Domain 1:	Domain 2:	Domain 3:	Domain 4:	Domain 5:	Domain 6:
			Knowledge of Faith	Liturgical Life	Moral Formation	Prayer	Communal Life	Missionary Spirit
July thru Nov	6,335	68.9%	67.0%	64.5%	76.4%	69.9%	60.0%	72.3%
Dec thru Feb	1,342	74.1%	73.5%	69.5%	81.5%	72.3%	65.4%	78.0%
Mar thru June	4,458	75.9%	75.4%	69.7%	82.1%	75.1%	69.6%	78.9%
Annual Results	12,135	72.0%	70.8%	66.9%	79.1%	72.1%	64.1%	75.4%

**Performance of Grade 9 Students in Catholic Schools**

When assessed	Results	Performance Category		
		Needs Improvements	Proficient	Advanced
July thru Nov	Percent in Category	40.8%	40.9%	18.3%
	Number of Students	2,585	2,591	1,159
Dec thru Feb	Percent in Category	28.1%	44.1%	27.8%
	Number of Students	377	592	373
Mar thru June	Percent in Category	25.1%	44.7%	30.2%
	Number of Students	1,119	1,993	1,346
Annual Results	Percent in Category	33.6%	42.7%	23.7%
	Number of Students	4,077	5,182	2,876

**Grade 9 NCEA IFG: ACRE Scores of Students in Parishes**

When assessed	No. of Students	Part I Total Score	Domain 1:	Domain 2:	Domain 3:	Domain 4:	Domain 5:	Domain 6:
			Knowledge of Faith	Liturgical Life	Moral Formation	Prayer	Communal Life	Missionary Spirit
July thru Nov	39	49.8%	42.5%	51.3%	60.4%	55.7%	34.8%	56.4%
Dec thru Feb	300	62.8%	57.8%	60.6%	74.0%	65.7%	51.2%	65.9%
Mar thru June	176	68.2%	65.3%	64.9%	74.5%	69.3%	63.7%	70.1%
Annual Results	515	63.7%	59.2%	61.4%	73.1%	66.2%	54.2%	66.6%

**Performance of Grade 9 Students in Parishes**

When assessed	Results	Performance Category		
		Needs Improvements	Proficient	Advanced
July thru Nov	Percent in Category	87.2%	12.8%	0%
	Number of Students	34	5	0
Dec thru Feb	Percent in Category	55.3%	37.3%	7.3%
	Number of Students	166	112	22
Mar thru June	Percent in Category	47.7%	36.4%	15.9%
	Number of Students	84	64	28
Annual Results	Percent in Category	55.1%	35.1%	9.7%
	Number of Students	284	181	50



**Grade 11 NCEA IFG: ACRE Scores of Students in Catholic Schools**

When assessed	No. of Students	Part I Total Score	Domain 1:	Domain 2:	Domain 3:	Domain 4:	Domain 5:	Domain 6:
			Knowledge of Faith	Liturgical Life	Moral Formation	Prayer	Communal Life	Missionary Spirit
July thru Nov	1,081	71.1%	66.9%	70.1%	71.7%	76.4%	73.7%	72.2%
Dec thru Feb	7,212	71.6%	66.9%	71.0%	71.8%	77.7%	74.4%	72.9%
Mar thru June	7,216	73.3%	68.4%	72.4%	74.6%	78.9%	75.6%	73.8%
Annual Results	15,511	72.4%	67.6%	71.6%	73.1%	78.2%	75.0%	73.3%

**Performance of Grade 11 Students in Catholic Schools**

When assessed	Results	Performance Category		
		Needs Improvements	Proficient	Advanced
July thru Nov	Percent in Category	31.0%	52.5%	16.6%
	Number of Students	335	568	179
Dec thru Feb	Percent in Category	31.9%	52.0%	16.1%
	Number of Students	2,301	3,750	1,161
Mar thru June	Percent in Category	28.3%	53.9%	17.9%
	Number of Students	2,042	3,889	1,292
Annual Results	Percent in Category	29.9%	53.0%	17.1
	Number of Students	4,638	8,221	2,637

**Grade 11 NCEA IFG: ACRE Scores of Students in Parishes**

When assessed	No. of Students	Part I Total Score	Domain 1: Knowledge of Faith	Domain 2: Liturgical Life	Domain 3: Moral Formation	Domain 4: Prayer	Domain 5: Communal Life	Domain 6: Missionary Spirit
July thru Nov	86	64.9%	58.6%	64.5%	68.4%	71.5%	64.9%	65.9%
Dec thru Feb	322	66.3%	59.8%	65.3%	68.8%	74.7%	66.5%	68.0%
Mar thru June	1,302	63.3%	54.2%	63.2%	67.9%	72.5%	63.2%	65.6%
Annual Results	1,710	64.0%	55.6%	63.5%	68.1%	72.9%	64.0%	66.0%

**Performance of Grade 11 Students in Parishes**

When assessed	Results	Performance Category		
		Needs Improvements	Proficient	Advanced
July thru Nov	Percent in Category	53.5%	40.7%	5.8%
	Number of Students	46	35	5
Dec thru Feb	Percent in Category	46.0%	49.7%	4.3%
	Number of Students	148	160	14
Mar thru June	Percent in Category	54.6%	38.1%	7.3%
	Number of Students	711	496	95
Annual Results	Percent in Category	52.7%	40.5%	6.8%
	Number of Students	901	693	116

**Grade 12 NCEA IFG: ACRE Scores of Students in Catholic Schools**

When assessed	No. of Students	Part I Total Score	Domain 1:	Domain 2:	Domain 3:	Domain 4:	Domain 5:	Domain 6:
			Knowledge of Faith	Liturgical Life	Moral Formation	Prayer	Communal Life	Missionary Spirit
July thru Nov	5,663	72.9%	68.5%	70.1%	74.3%	78.3%	75.0%	74.0%
Dec thru Feb	2,456	73.9%	68.4%	72.0%	75.5%	79.7%	76.5%	75.1%
Mar thru June	7,748	73.8%	68.0%	72.2%	76.5%	79.5%	76.1%	74.0%
Annual Results	15,863	73.4%	68.2%	71.3%	75.5%	79.1%	75.7%	74.2%

**Performance of Grade 12 Students in Catholic Schools**

When assessed	Results	Performance Category		
		Needs Improvements	Proficient	Advanced
July thru Nov	Percent in Category	31.0%	52.5%	16.6%
	Number of Students	335	568	179
Dec thru Feb	Percent in Category	31.9%	52.0%	16.1%
	Number of Students	2,301	3,750	1,161
Mar thru June	Percent in Category	28.3%	53.9%	17.9%
	Number of Students	2,042	3,889	1,292
Annual Results	Percent in Category	29.9%	53.0%	17.0%
	Number of Students	4,638	8,221	2,637

**Grade 12 NCEA IFG: ACRE Scores of Students in Parishes**

When assessed	No. of Students	Part I Total Score	Domain 1: Knowledge of Faith	Domain 2: Liturgical Life	Domain 3: Moral Formation	Domain 4: Prayer	Domain 5: Communal Life	Domain 6: Missionary Spirit
July thru Nov	11	62.8%	52.3%	56.1%	69.3%	68.2%	60.0%	73.7%
Dec thru Feb	28	71.2%	65.4%	72.6%	75.4%	75.0%	68.2%	73.8%
Mar thru June	62	61.6%	54.2%	61.8%	64.2%	68.5%	61.1%	66.1%
Annual Results	101	64.4%	57.1%	64.2%	67.9%	70.3%	63.0%	69.1%

**Performance of Grade 12 Students in Parishes**

When assessed	Results	Performance Category		
		Needs Improvements	Proficient	Advanced
July thru Nov	Percent in Category	63.6%	36.4%	0.0%
	Number of Students	7	4	0
Dec thru Feb	Percent in Category	39.3%	42.9%	17.9%
	Number of Students	11	12	5
Mar thru June	Percent in Category	61.3%	25.8%	12.9%
	Number of Students	38	16	8
Annual Results	Percent in Category	55.4%	31.7%	12.9%
	Number of Students	56	32	13

