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Memo to: NCEA ACRE Participant

From: John Poggio & Kelly Wagner

Enclosed are the results of your administration of the NCEA's *Assessment of Catechesis Religious Education (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 ACRE as well as the religious knowledge section) to be provided. This is done in order to help ensure the confidentiality of their responses.

Note that revisions have been made in the current reports to 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. The national statistics are based on all students sitting for the NCEA ACRE assessment during baseline academic years 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 (introduction/availability of the revised NCEA ACRE). The statistics were computed to represent the average between these years.

Based on requests from many users and working with the NCEA, we have prepared and are distributing a summary of NCEA 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 ACRE was administered (Fall, Winter, Spring of academic year 2007-2008). Your feedback on this reporting feature is welcomed. These reports are attached to this letter.

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

Thanks once again for your participation in NCEA 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 ACRE (December 2007)

At the request of dioceses, parishes and schools that use NCEA ACRE, we have compiled separate reports for schools and parishes to show the performance of NCEA ACRE students who sat for the assessment last academic year (fall 2007 through summer 2008). 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 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 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 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 ACRE students assessed.). How well does the NCEA 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 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 ACRE assessment. Also provided is the national percent of students scoring in the three NCEA ACRA Performance Standard categories (In Need of Improvement, Proficient, and Advanced). How to interpret these score data is provided in the NCEA ACRE Interpretation Manual that is returned to you with your local results. Contact CAL 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 ACRE Scores of Students in Catholic School

When assessed	No. of students	Part I Total Score	Domain 1: God – Father, Son & Holy Spirit	Domain 2: Church – One, Holy, Catholic & Apostolic	Domain 3: Liturgy & Sacraments	Domain 4: Revelation, Scripture & Faith	Domain 5: Life in Christ – Personal Morality & Catholic Social Teaching	Domain 6: Church History	Domain 7: Prayer & Religious Practices	Domain 8: Catholic Faith Literacy
			Mean % Correct							
July thru Nov	7867	70.7	81.1	74.0	68.1	80.6	61.3	58.8	63.6	74.8
Dec thru Feb	27577	73.3	83.3	76.2	72.9	81.2	63.4	62.3	67.7	76.7
Mar thru June	24314	75.9	85.1	79.6	75.9	83.1	65.7	65.3	70.3	79.4
Annual Results	59758	74.0	83.7	77.2	73.4	81.9	64.0	63.0	68.2	77.5

Performance of Grade 5 Students in Catholic Schools (From July 2007-June 2008)

When assessed:	Results	Performance Category		
		Needs Improvements	Proficient	Advanced
July thru Nov	Percent in Category	27.6	60.8	11.6
	Number of Students	2170	4782	915
Dec thru Feb	Percent in Category	21.8	59.8	18.4
	Number of Students	6005	16488	5084
Mar thru June	Percent in Category	16.8	59.1	24.2
	Number of Students	4079	14360	5875
Annual results	Percent in Category	20.5	59.6	19.9
	Number of Students	12254	35630	11874

Grade 8 NCEA ACRE Scores of Students in Catholic School

When assessed	No. of students	Part I Total Score	Domain 1: God – Father, Son & Holy Spirit	Domain 2: Church – One, Holy, Catholic & Apostolic	Domain 3: Liturgy & Sacraments	Domain 4: Revelation, Scripture & Faith	Domain 5: Life in Christ – Personal Morality & Catholic Social Teaching	Domain 6: Church History	Domain 7: Prayer & Religious Practices	Domain 8: Catholic Faith Literacy
			Mean % Correct							
July thru Nov	7789	73.4	79.5	72.9	72.4	79.2	78.1	61.1	75.3	66.7
Dec thru Feb	28973	74.0	80.5	74.1	72.9	78.8	78.5	61.6	75.5	67.9
Mar thru June	22931	77.2	83.1	77.3	76.0	81.0	81.3	66.7	78.3	71.4
Annual Results	59693	75.1	81.4	75.1	74.0	79.7	79.5	63.5	76.5	69.1

Performance of Grade 8 Students in Catholic Schools (From July 2007-June 2008)

When assessed:	Results	Performance Category		
		Needs Improvements	Proficient	Advanced
July thru Nov	Percent in Category	24.4	54.2	21.4
	Number of Students	1904	4221	1664
Dec thru Feb	Percent in Category	22.9	53.3	23.8
	Number of Students	6625	15456	6892
Mar thru June	Percent in Category	17.2	50.5	32.3
	Number of Students	3945	11571	7415
Annual results	Percent in Category	20.9	52.3	26.8
	Number of Students	12474	31248	15971

Grade 9 NCEA ACRE Scores of Students in Catholic School

When assessed	No. of students	Part I Total Score	Domain 1: God – Father, Son & Holy Spirit	Domain 2: Church – One, Holy, Catholic & Apostolic	Domain 3: Liturgy & Sacraments	Domain 4: Revelation, Scripture & Faith	Domain 5: Life in Christ – Personal Morality & Catholic Social Teaching	Domain 6: Church History	Domain 7: Prayer & Religious Practices	Domain 8: Catholic Faith Literacy
			Mean % Correct							
July thru Nov	7339	69.2	76.8	69.9	68.4	71.6	73.0	56.3	72.5	62.9
Dec thru Feb	2604	74.7	82.5	75.9	72.8	77.3	77.8	65.3	77.3	67.7
Mar thru June	5046	73.6	79.9	72.8	71.5	77.2	78.1	64.3	74.3	68.9
Annual Results	14989	71.8	79.0	72.1	70.4	74.6	75.7	60.9	74.0	66.0

Performance of Grade 9 Students in Catholic Schools (From July 2007-June 2008)

When assessed:	Results	Performance Category		
		Needs Improvements	Proficient	Advanced
y thru Nov	Percent in Category	34.3	49.7	16.0
	Number of Students	2519	3647	1173
ec thru Feb	Percent in Category	29.4	45.7	25
	Number of Students	765	1189	650
Mar thru June	Percent in Category	23.6	42.6	33.7
	Number of Students	1192	2152	1702
Annual results	Percent in Category	29.9	46.6	23.5
	Number of Students	4476	6988	3525

Grade 11 NCEA ACRE Scores of Students in Catholic School

When assessed	No. of students	Part I Total Score	Domain 1: God – Father, Son & Holy Spirit	Domain 2: Church – One, Holy, Catholic & Apostolic	Domain 3: Liturgy & Sacraments	Domain 4: Revelation, Scripture & Faith	Domain 5: Life in Christ – Personal Morality & Catholic Social Teaching	Domain 6: Church History	Domain 7: Prayer & Religious Practices	Domain 8: Catholic Faith Literacy
			Mean % Correct							
July thru Nov	1847	67.3	75.8	79.1	72.7	61.0	59.4	55.0	71.9	65.5
Dec thru Feb	5660	69.3	78.2	81.1	74.3	61.3	62.0	58.3	74.6	66.5
Mar thru June	6735	70.4	78.5	80.9	75.7	61.9	63.9	59.7	75.7	68.3
Annual Results	14242	69.6	78.1	80.8	74.8	61.5	62.6	58.6	74.8	67.2

Performance of Grade 11 Students in Catholic Schools (From July 2007-June 2008)

When assessed:	Results	Performance Category		
		Needs Improvements	Proficient	Advanced
July thru Nov	Percent in Category	33.8	50.8	15.4
	Number of Students	624	938	285
Dec thru Feb	Percent in Category	32.2	50.5	17.3
	Number of Students	1825	2856	979
Mar thru June	Percent in Category	31.2	49	19.8
	Number of Students	2104	3298	1333
Annual results	Percent in Category	32	49.8	18.2
	Number of Students	4553	7092	2597

Grade 12 NCEA ACRE Scores of Students in Catholic School

When assessed	No. of students	Part I Total Score	Domain 1: God – Father, Son & Holy Spirit	Domain 2: Church – One, Holy, Catholic & Apostolic	Domain 3: Liturgy & Sacraments	Domain 4: Revelation, Scripture & Faith	Domain 5: Life in Christ – Personal Morality & Catholic Social Teaching	Domain 6: Church History	Domain 7: Prayer & Religious Practices	Domain 8: Catholic Faith Literacy
			Mean % Correct							
July thru Nov	4936	71.7	79.8	82.4	76.7	64.1	64.9	61.6	76.9	68.7
Dec thru Feb	4751	73.0	80.7	83.6	78.3	64.5	67.2	63.0	77.6	70.9
Mar thru June	6876	67.8	75.1	77.9	72.0	59.4	63.1	58.2	72.6	65.4
Annual Results	16563	70.4	78.1	80.8	75.2	62.2	64.8	60.6	75.3	68.0

Performance of Grade 12 Students in Catholic Schools (From July 2007-June 2008)

When assessed:	Results	Performance Category		
		Needs Improvements	Proficient	Advanced
July thru Nov	Percent in Category	29	49.5	21.6
	Number of Students	1430	2441	1065
Dec thru Feb	Percent in Category	25.4	48.9	25.7
	Number of Students	1206	2325	1220
Mar thru June	Percent in Category	33.6	45	21.4
	Number of Students	2309	3094	1473
Annual results	Percent in Category	29.9	47.5	22.7
	Number of Students	4945	7860	3758

Grade 5 NCEA ACRE Scores of Students in Parish Schools

When assessed	No. of students	Part I Total Score	Domain 1: God – Father, Son & Holy Spirit	Domain 2: Church – One, Holy, Catholic & Apostolic	Domain 3: Liturgy & Sacraments	Domain 4: Revelation, Scripture & Faith	Domain 5: Life in Christ – Personal Morality & Catholic Social Teaching	Domain 6: Church History	Domain 7: Prayer & Religious Practices	Domain 8: Catholic Faith Literacy
			Mean % Correct							
July thru Nov	784	57.1	69.2	63.4	52.2	65.9	50.2	44.4	47.0	62.5
Dec thru Feb	5777	62.5	73.9	66.4	59.9	71.0	55.5	49.2	51.9	68.6
Mar thru June	11250	62.6	73.6	66.8	60.2	71.1	55.5	49.3	52.3	68.0
Annual Results	12034	61.9	73.1	66.4	59.3	70.5	54.9	48.7	51.6	67.4

Performance of Grade 5 Students in Parish Schools (From July 2007-June 2008)

When assessed:	Results	Performance Category		
		Needs Improvements	Proficient	Advanced
July thru Nov	Percent in Category	68.7	29.1	2.2
	Number of Students	539	228	17
Dec thru Feb	Percent in Category	50.4	44.5	5.1
	Number of Students	2914	2570	293
Mar thru June	Percent in Category	49.6	44.6	5.8
	Number of Students	2716	2441	316
Annual results	Percent in Category	51.3	43.5	5.2
	Number of Students	6169	5239	626

Grade 8 NCEA ACRE Scores of Students in Parish Schools

When assessed	No. of students	Part I Total Score	Domain 1: God – Father, Son & Holy Spirit	Domain 2: Church – One, Holy, Catholic & Apostolic	Domain 3: Liturgy & Sacraments	Domain 4: Revelation, Scripture & Faith	Domain 5: Life in Christ – Personal Morality & Catholic Social Teaching	Domain 6: Church History	Domain 7: Prayer & Religious Practices	Domain 8: Catholic Faith Literacy
			Mean % Correct							
July thru Nov	739	59.4	65.8	58.0	60.5	63.1	67.1	41.0	66.8	49.8
Dec thru Feb	5616	61.5	68.9	60.0	61.9	64.2	68.4	43.8	68.4	53.4
Mar thru June	4956	61.3	69.0	60.7	61.2	62.5	68.3	44.3	68.2	53.4
Annual Results	11311	61.2	68.5	60.0	61.4	63.4	68.2	43.7	68.1	52.9

Performance of Grade 8 Students in Parish Schools (From July 2007-June 2008)

When assessed:	Results	Performance Category		
		Needs Improvements	Proficient	Advanced
July thru Nov	Percent in Category	57.8	37.3	4.9
	Number of Students	427	276	36
Dec thru Feb	Percent in Category	52.7	41.3	6.0
	Number of Students	2958	2321	337
Mar thru June	Percent in Category	53.5	40.8	5.7
	Number of Students	2651	2022	283
Annual results	Percent in Category	53.4	40.8	5.8
	Number of Students	6036	4619	656

Grade 9 NCEA ACRE Scores of Students in Parish School

When assessed	No. of students	Part I Total Score	Domain 1: God – Father, Son & Holy Spirit	Domain 2: Church – One, Holy, Catholic & Apostolic	Domain 3: Liturgy & Sacraments	Domain 4: Revelation, Scripture & Faith	Domain 5: Life in Christ – Personal Morality & Catholic Social Teaching	Domain 6: Church History	Domain 7: Prayer & Religious Practices	Domain 8: Catholic Faith Literacy
July thru Nov	201	66.1	72.6	67.1	65.8	73.0	75.3	48.1	67.8	54.4
Dec thru Feb	173	63.4	70.4	62.1	63.3	65.1	71.9	46.6	68.9	55.0
Mar thru June	227	65.9	73.0	64.2	66.9	66.6	73.4	51.3	70.3	58.0
Annual Results	391	64.6	71.7	63.2	65.0	65.3	72.6	49.2	69.0	56.4

Performance of Grade 9 Students in Parish Schools (From July 2007-June 2008)

When assessed:	Results	Performance Category		
		Needs Improvements	Proficient	Advanced
July thru Nov	Percent in Category	37.3	51.2	11.4
	Number of Students	75	103	23
Dec thru Feb	Percent in Category	35.3	53.8	11
	Number of Students	61	93	19
Mar thru June	Percent in Category	41	48.0	11
	Number of Students	93	109	25
Annual results	Percent in Category	38.1	50.7	11.1
	Number of Students	229	305	67

Grade 11 NCEA ACRE Scores of Students in Parish School

When assessed	No. of students	Part I Total Score	Domain 1: God – Father, Son & Holy Spirit	Domain 2: Church – One, Holy, Catholic & Apostolic	Domain 3: Liturgy & Sacraments	Domain 4: Revelation, Scripture & Faith	Domain 5: Life in Christ – Personal Morality & Catholic Social Teaching	Domain 6: Church History	Domain 7: Prayer & Religious Practices	Domain 8: Catholic Faith Literacy
July thru Nov	602	58.6	66.6	75.2	67.1	44.0	56.1	46.6	65.4	46.6
Dec thru Feb	917	61.8	70.1	75.8	71.3	48.9	55.8	51.7	68.3	52.7
Mar thru June	320	64.9	71.4	77.5	72.9	54.3	59.0	54.9	72.7	57.0
Annual Results	1839	61.3	69.2	75.9	70.3	48.4	56.4	50.7	68.2	51.6

Performance of Grade 11 Students in Parish Schools (From July 2007-June 2008)

When assessed:	Results	Performance Category		
		Needs Improvements	Proficient	Advanced
July thru Nov	Percent in Category	63.6	34.1	2.3
	Number of Students	383	205	14
Dec thru Feb	Percent in Category	55.8	37.9	6.2
	Number of Students	512	348	57
Mar thru June	Percent in Category	45.6	42.8	11.6
	Number of Students	146	137	37
Annual results	Percent in Category	56.6	37.5	5.9
	Number of Students	1041	690	108

Grade 12 NCEA ACRE Scores of Students in Parish School

When assessed	No. of students	Part I Total Score	Domain 1: God – Father, Son & Holy Spirit	Domain 2: Church – One, Holy, Catholic & Apostolic	Domain 3: Liturgy & Sacraments	Domain 4: Revelation, Scripture & Faith	Domain 5: Life in Christ – Personal Morality & Catholic Social Teaching	Domain 6: Church History	Domain 7: Prayer & Religious Practices	Domain 8: Catholic Faith Literacy
July thru Nov	32	70.0	80.3	88.4	72.8	52.3	63.0	64.0	79.0	59.3
Dec thru Feb	121	66.5	74.3	76.8	75.0	53.0	63.2	58.1	70.8	61.5
Mar thru June	33	52.1	58.6	62.1	63.2	38.2	50.1	44.5	56.5	43.0
Annual Results	186	65.4	73.8	78.0	72.7	50.7	61.3	57.9	71.1	58.2

Performance of Grade 12 Students in Parish Schools (From July 2007-June 2008)

When assessed:	Results	Performance Category		
		Needs Improvements	Proficient	Advanced
July thru Nov	Percent in Category	50	50	0
	Number of Students	16	16	0
Dec thru Feb	Percent in Category	38.8	43.8	17.4
	Number of Students	47	53	21
Mar thru June	Percent in Category	66.7	27.3	6.1
	Number of Students	22	9	2
Annual results	Percent in Category	45.7	41.9	12.4
	Number of Students	85	78	23