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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 2008-2009). 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

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 2008 through summer 2009). 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 Student	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	6,868	69.9%	81.2%	74.0%	68.0%	80.1%	60.4%	58.5%	63.0%	74.0%	
Dec thru Feb	30,846	73.4%	82.9%	76.2%	73.3%	81.3%	63.7%	62.9%	68.0%	76.9%	
Mar thru June	22,348	76.2%	85.0%	80.0%	76.0%	84.0%	66.0%	66.0%	70.0%	80.0%	
Annual Results	60,062	74.1%	82.9%	77.9%	73.9%	81.6%	64.0%	63.0%	68.1%	78.0%	

Performance of Grade 5 Students in Catholic Schools

When assessed	Results	Performance Category		
		Needs Improvements	Proficient	Advanced
July thru Nov	Percent in Category	30.0%	58.0%	12.0%
	Number of Students	2,058	3,983	827
Dec thru Feb	Percent in Category	21.7%	59.2%	19.0%
	Number of Students	6,703	18,271	5,872
Mar thru June	Percent in Category	15.9%	58.0%	26.1%
	Number of Students	3,558	12,960	5,830
Annual Results	Percent in Category	20.5%	58.6%	20.9%
	Number of Students	12,319	35,214	12,529

Grade 8 NCEA ACRE Scores of Students in Catholic School

When assessed	No of Student	Part I Total Score	Domain 1	Domain 2:	Domain 3:	Domain 4:	Domain 5:	Domain 6:	Domain 7:	Domain 8:
			God – Father, Son & Holy Spirit	Church – One, Holy, Catholic & Apostolic	Liturgy & Sacraments	Revelation, Scripture & Faith	Life in Christ – Personal Morality & Catholic Social Teaching	Church History	Prayer & Religious Practices	Catholic Faith Literacy
Mean % Correct										
July thru Nov	7,989	72.0%	78.1%	71.7%	70.9%	78.3%	76.7%	58.4%	73.7%	65.9%
Dec thru Feb	31,617	74.9%	81.2%	74.8%	73.8%	79.6%	79.7%	62.6%	76.0%	69.0%
Mar thru June	23,771	77.7%	83.2%	77.7%	76.4%	81.8%	82.3%	67.1%	78.5%	72.0%
Annual Results	63,377	75.6%	81.5%	75.5%	74.4%	80.3%	80.3%	63.7%	76.7%	69.7%

Performance of Grade 8 Students in Catholic Schools

When assessed	Results	Performance Category		
		Needs Improvements	Proficient	Advanced
July thru Nov	Percent in Category	27.4%	53.0%	19.6%
	Number of Students	2,190	4,235	1,564
Dec thru Feb	Percent in Category	21.0%	52.4%	26.6%
	Number of Students	6,653	16,568	8,396
Mar thru June	Percent in Category	16.1%	50.1%	33.8%
	Number of Students	3,830	11,898	8,043
Annual Results	Percent in Category	20.0%	51.6%	28.4%
	Number of Students	12,673	32,701	18,003

Grade 9 NCEA ACRE Scores of Students in Catholic School

When assessed	No of Student	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	7,003	69.2%	77.3%	70.9%	68.6%	70.8%	72.8%	55.4%	72.3%	63.3%
Dec thru Feb	2,689	70.5%	77.1%	72.1%	68.7%	74.1%	74.6%	59.2%	71.0%	65.2%
Mar thru June	6,365	75.6%	80.4%	75.9%	73.2%	79.3%	79.3%	67.3%	76.0%	71.3%
Annual Results	16,057	72.1%	78.5%	73.3%	70.6%	74.9%	75.8%	61.2%	73.5%	67.1%

Performance of Grade 9 Students in Catholic Schools

When assessed	Results	Performance Category		
		Needs Improvements	Proficient	Advanced
July thru Nov	Percent in Category	34.5%	47.4%	18.1%
	Number of Students	2,416	3,316	1,271
Dec thru Feb	Percent in Category	32.4%	45.2%	22.4%
	Number of Students	872	1,216	601
Mar thru June	Percent in Category	21.4%	43.9%	34.8%
	Number of Students	1,359	2,794	2,212
Annual Results	Percent in Category	28.9%	45.6%	25.4%
	Number of Students	4,647	7,326	4,084

Grade 11 NCEA ACRE Scores of Students in Catholic School

When assessed	No of Student	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	893	63.3%	73.1%	76.5%	67.9%	54.7%	57.2%	50.6%	68.4%	59.5%
Dec thru Feb	7,742	68.3%	76.2%	80.0%	74.0%	60.4%	61.4%	57.1%	73.5%	65.0%
Mar thru June	7,831	70.8%	78.3%	81.6%	76.6%	62.5%	64.0%	61.3%	76.6%	67.2%
Annual Results	16,466	69.2%	77.1%	80.6%	74.9%	61.1%	62.4%	58.8%	74.7%	65.8%

Performance of Grade 11 Students in Catholic Schools

When assessed	Results	Performance Category		
		Needs Improvements	Proficient	Advanced
July thru Nov	Percent in Category	40.1%	45.0%	14.9%
	Number of Students	358	402	133
Dec thru Feb	Percent in Category	34.2%	48.0%	17.8%
	Number of Students	2,649	3,717	1,376
Mar thru June	Percent in Category	31.0%	49.0%	20.0%
	Number of Students	2,425	3,838	1,568
Annual Results	Percent in Category	33.0%	48.3%	18.7%
	Number of Students	5,432	7,957	3,077

Grade 12 NCEA ACRE Scores of Students in Catholic School

When assessed	No of Student	Part I Total Score	Domain 1	Domain 2:	Domain 3:	Domain 4:	Domain 5:	Domain 6:	Domain 7:	Domain 8:
			God – Father, Son & Holy Spirit	Church – One, Holy, Catholic & Apostolic	Liturgy & Sacraments	Revelation, Scripture & Faith	Life in Christ – Personal Morality & Catholic Social Teaching	Church History	Prayer & Religious Practices	Catholic Faith Literacy
Mean % Correct										
July thru Nov	5,505	72.4%	80.0%	83.0%	77.0%	64.0%	66.0%	62.0%	78.0%	69.0%
Dec thru Feb	5,161	73.4%	81.0%	84.0%	79.0%	65.0%	68.0%	63.0%	78.0%	71.0%
Mar thru June	7,285	69.3%	77.0%	79.0%	73.0%	60.0%	65.0%	59.0%	75.0%	66.0%
Annual Results	17,951	71.3%	79.0%	82.0%	76.0%	63.0%	66.0%	61.0%	77.0%	68.0%

Performance of Grade 12 Students in Catholic Schools

When assessed	Results	Performance Category		
		Needs Improvements	Proficient	Advanced
July thru Nov	Percent in Category	26.0%	52.0%	22.0%
	Number of Students	1,432	2,861	1,212
Dec thru Feb	Percent in Category	23.4%	50.1%	26.1%
	Number of Students	1,226	2,586	1,349
Mar thru June	Percent in Category	31.1%	45.5%	23.4%
	Number of Students	2,262	3,317	1,706
Annual Results	Percent in Category	27.4%	48.8%	23.8%
	Number of Students	4,920	8,764	4,267

Grade 5 NCEA ACRE Scores of Students in Parish School

When assessed	No of Student	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	863	58.0%	70.8%	61.9%	53.9%	66.6%	53.5%	44.4%	47.4%	62.2%
Dec thru Feb	5,591	62.6%	73.3%	67.2%	60.5%	71.4%	55.3%	49.3%	52.3%	67.7%
Mar thru June	4,810	63.0%	73.3%	67.6%	61.2%	71.0%	55.9%	49.5%	53.0%	68.1%
Annual Results	11,264	62.0%	72.9%	66.7%	59.8%	70.5%	55.3%	48.6%	51.8%	67.0%

Performance of Grade 5 Students in Parish Schools

When assessed	Results	Performance Category		
		Needs Improvements	Proficient	Advanced
July thru Nov	Percent in Category	65.8%	31.3%	2.9%
	Number of Students	568	270	25
Dec thru Feb	Percent in Category	48.5%	45.3%	6.2%
	Number of Students	2,711	2,532	348
Mar thru June	Percent in Category	48.6%	44.0%	7.4%
	Number of Students	2,338	2,115	357
Annual Results	Percent in Category	49.9%	43.7%	6.5%
	Number of Students	5,617	4,917	730

Grade 8 NCEA ACRE Scores of Students in Parish School

When assessed	No of Student	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	1,314	59.9%	67.2%	59.4%	61.1%	60.8%	66.3%	42.9%	67.4%	51.4%
Dec thru Feb	4,907	62.2%	69.4%	60.7%	62.8%	64.7%	69.8%	43.7%	68.3%	54.4%
Mar thru June	4,972	61.9%	68.8%	60.7%	61.9%	64.6%	69.5%	44.8%	67.6%	53.6%
Annual Results	11,193	61.6%	68.8%	60.5%	62.1%	63.9%	69.0%	44.0%	67.8%	53.5%

Performance of Grade 8 Students in Parish Schools

When assessed	Results	Performance Category		
		Needs Improvements	Proficient	Advanced
July thru Nov	Percent in Category	59.70%	34.30%	6.00%
	Number of Students	784	451	79
Dec thru Feb	Percent in Category	49.30%	43.60%	7.10%
	Number of Students	2,418	2,141	348
Mar thru June	Percent in Category	50.90%	42.80%	6.30%
	Number of Students	2,533	2,127	312
Annual Results	Percent in Category	51.20%	42.20%	6.60%
	Number of Students	5,735	4,719	739

Grade 9 NCEA ACRE Scores of Students in Parish School

When assessed	No of Student	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	136	54.6%	61.2%	48.1%	56.8%	53.2%	64.9%	41.0%	58.8%	48.0%
Dec thru Feb	319	63.1%	70.6%	60.0%	62.1%	64.7%	73.1%	45.0%	69.8%	55.5%
Mar thru June	91	65.0%	73.1%	64.0%	64.3%	64.9%	72.4%	52.6%	71.0%	54.6%
Annual Results	546	62.5%	70.0%	59.5%	62.0%	63.2%	71.8%	46.5%	68.6%	54.2%

Performance of Grade 9 Students in Parish Schools

When assessed	Results	Performance Category		
		Needs Improvements	Proficient	Advanced
July thru Nov	Percent in Category	64.7%	35.3%	0.0%
	Number of Students	88	48	-
Dec thru Feb	Percent in Category	31.3%	45.5%	19.1%
	Number of Students	100	158	61
Mar thru June	Percent in Category	49.5%	40.7%	9.9%
	Number of Students	45	37	9
Annual Results	Percent in Category	42.7%	44.5%	12.8%
	Number of Students	233	243	70

Grade 11 NCEA ACRE Scores of Students in Parish School

When assessed	No of Student	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	905	60.1%	68.0%	75.0%	69.0%	47.1%	55.0%	49.0%	67.0%	49.0%
Dec thru Feb	426	61.1%	69.0%	75.0%	70.0%	48.0%	56.0%	49.0%	69.0%	52.0%
Mar thru June	256	59.6%	65.1%	73.0%	66.0%	45.0%	59.1%	48.0%	68.0%	51.0%
Annual Results	1,587	60.2%	68.0%	75.0%	69.0%	47.0%	56.0%	49.0%	68.0%	50.0%

Performance of Grade 11 Students in Parish Schools

When assessed	Results	Performance Category		
		Needs Improvements	Proficient	Advanced
July thru Nov	Percent in Category	62.7%	32.5%	4.9%
	Number of Students	567	294	44
Dec thru Feb	Percent in Category	54.9%	38.5%	6.6%
	Number of Students	234	164	28
Mar thru June	Percent in Category	59.8%	29.3%	10.9%
	Number of Students	153	75	28
Annual Results	Percent in Category	60.1%	33.6%	6.3%
	Number of Students	954	533	100

Grade 12 NCEA ACRE Scores of Students in Parish School

When assessed	No of Student	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	10	66.7%	77.7%	87.8%	71.8%	53.6%	62.9%	44.6%	74.4%	61.1%
Dec thru Feb	192	66.2%	73.6%	80.5%	76.3%	50.7%	65.0%	55.3%	73.6%	52.7%
Mar thru June	43	78.0%	82.9%	87.6%	85.2%	69.7%	70.4%	74.7%	83.0%	71.7%
Annual Results	245	68.8%	76.1%	82.8%	77.7%	55.1%	55.1%	58.3%	75.7%	57.6%

Performance of Grade 12 Students in Parish Schools

When assessed	Results	Performance Category		
		Needs Improvements	Proficient	Advanced
July thru Nov	Percent in Category	20.0%	60.0%	20.0%
	Number of Students	2	6	2
Dec thru Feb	Percent in Category	43.2%	50.5%	6.2%
	Number of Students	83	97	12
Mar thru June	Percent in Category	20.5%	38.6%	40.9%
	Number of Students	9	17	18
Annual Results	Percent in Category	38.2%	48.8%	13.0%
	Number of Students	94	120	32