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Memo to: NCEA ACRE Participant

From: 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 2009-2010). 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 2009 through summer 2010). 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 ACRE 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 I 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	7,135	70.8%	81.4%	74.7%	68.6%	80.1%	61.5%	59.0%
Dec thru Feb	27,349	73.8%	83.5%	76.9%	74.2%	81.7%	63.5%	63.4%	67.7%	76.7%									
Mar thru June	23,345	76.6%	85.1%	80.7%	76.6%	83.8%	66.2%	67.3%	70.8%	79.9%									
Annual Results	57,829	74.6%	83.9%	78.1%	74.4%	82.3%	64.3%	64.4%	68.5%	77.7%									

Performance of Grade 5 Students in Catholic Schools

When assessed	Results	Performance Category		
		Needs Improvements	Proficient	Advanced
July thru Nov	Percent in Category	27.6%	58.0%	14.4%
	Number of Students	1,972	4,139	1,024
Dec thru Feb	Percent in Category	20.5%	59.9%	19.6%
	Number of Students	5,601	16,376	5,372
Mar thru June	Percent in Category	16.3%	56.9%	26.8%
	Number of Students	3,812	13,279	6,254
Annual Results	Percent in Category	19.7%	58.4%	21.9%
	Number of Students	11,385	33,794	12,650

Grade 8 NCEA ACRE Scores of Students in Catholic School

When assessed	No of Student	Part I Total Score	Domain I God – Father, Son & Holy Spirit	Domain 2: Church – One, Holy, Catholic & Apostolic	Domain 3: Liturgy & Sacrament s	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	7,585	73.4%	79.6%	73.0%	72.1%	79.1%	78.4%	60.3%
Dec thru Feb	28,528	75.4%	81.5%	74.9%	74.7%	80.0%	80.2%	63.4%	76.5%	69.6%									
Mar thru June	22,772	78.2%	83.9%	78.1%	77.5%	82.2%	82.5%	67.7%	78.9%	72.5%									
Annual Results	58,885	76.3%	82.2%	76.0%	75.5%	80.8%	80.9%	64.7%	77.4%	70.5%									

Performance of Grade 8 Students in Catholic Schools

When assessed	Results	Performance Category		
		Needs Improvements	Proficient	Advanced
July thru Nov	Percent in Category	24.3%	53.8%	21.9%
	Number of Students	1,845	4,081	1,659
Dec thru Feb	Percent in Category	19.6%	52.6%	27.8%
	Number of Students	5,587	15,002	7,939
Mar thru June	Percent in Category	15.7%	48.1%	36.2%
	Number of Students	3,581	10,957	8,234
Annual Results	Percent in Category	18.7%	51.0%	30.3%
	Number of Students	11,013	30,040	17,832

Grade 9 NCEA ACRE Scores of Students in Catholic School

When assessed	No of Student	Part I Total Score	Domain I 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	8,902	67.5%	74.9%	68.0%	66.6%	70.8%	72.2%	52.5%
Dec thru Feb	2,281	74.5%	80.5%	73.3%	72.8%	77.6%	79.0%	65.9%	74.4%	70.0%									
Mar thru June	4,789	78.2%	84.4%	78.7%	76.0%	80.8%	81.9%	69.5%	78.7%	73.8%									
Annual Results	15,972	71.3%	78.0%	71.4%	70.0%	74.3%	75.7%	59.4%	73.3%	66.3%									

Performance of Grade 9 Students in Catholic Schools

When assessed	Results	Performance Category		
		Needs Improvements	Proficient	Advanced
July thru Nov	Percent in Category	37.1%	46.1%	16.8%
	Number of Students	3,304	4,103	1,495
Dec thru Feb	Percent in Category	24.3%	45.1%	30.6%
	Number of Students	554	1,028	699
Mar thru June	Percent in Category	20.3%	42.4%	37.3%
	Number of Students	971	2,032	1,786
Annual Results	Percent in Category	30.2%	44.8%	24.9%
	Number of Students	4,829	7,163	3,980

Grade 11 NCEA ACRE Scores of Students in Catholic School

When assessed	No of Student	Part I Total Score	Domain I 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	937	66.3%	72.6%	78.8%	73.4%	56.0%	60.0%	56.0%
Dec thru Feb	6,572	69.6%	77.4%	81.4%	75.9%	61.6%	62.3%	58.5%	74.5%	67.2%									
Mar thru June	8,616	71.1%	79.1%	80.9%	77.2%	63.6%	64.2%	61.2%	76.4%	68.0%									
Annual Results	16,125	70.1%	77.9%	81.0%	76.4%	62.2%	63.1%	59.7%	75.3%	67.4%									

Performance of Grade 11 Students in Catholic Schools

When assessed	Results	Performance Category		
		Needs Improvements	Proficient	Advanced
July thru Nov	Percent in Category	41.4%	45.6%	13.0%
	Number of Students	388	427	122
Dec thru Feb	Percent in Category	29.7%	50.0%	20.4%
	Number of Students	1,950	3,280	1,342
Mar thru June	Percent in Category	30.2%	48.5%	21.3%
	Number of Students	2,602	4,177	1,837
Annual Results	Percent in Category	30.6%	48.9%	20.5%
	Number of Students	4,940	7,884	3,301

Grade 12 NCEA ACRE Scores of Students in Catholic School

When assessed	No of Student	Part I Total Score	Domain I 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	5,867	69.4%	77.3%	80.1%	73.6%	61.2%	64.0%	59.5%
Dec thru Feb	5,782	72.2%	79.7%	82.4%	77.8%	62.4%	67.0%	62.8%	77.5%	69.4%									
Mar thru June	7,088	69.0%	76.1%	79.1%	74.7%	60.3%	63.5%	58.7%	74.8%	65.8%									
Annual Results	18,737	70.1%	77.6%	80.5%	75.2%	61.2%	64.7%	60.2%	75.8%	66.8%									

Performance of Grade 12 Students in Catholic Schools

When assessed	Results	Performance Category		
		Needs Improvements	Proficient	Advanced
July thru Nov	Percent in Category	29.4%	49.7%	20.9%
	Number of Students	1,726	2,916	1,225
Dec thru Feb	Percent in Category	26.7%	46.9%	26.4%
	Number of Students	1,543	2,711	1,528
Mar thru June	Percent in Category	32.3%	46.4%	21.3%
	Number of Students	2,289	3,287	1,512
Annual Results	Percent in Category	29.7%	47.6%	22.8%
	Number of Students	5,558	8,914	4,265

Grade 5 NCEA ACRE Scores of Students in Parish School

When assessed	No of Student	Part I Total Score	Domain I 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	851	56.8%	66.9%	63.5%	52.7%	65.8%	52.3%	41.7%
Dec thru Feb	4,633	63.2%	73.8%	67.7%	61.8%	71.5%	55.9%	50.0%	52.8%	68.0%									
Mar thru June	4,569	64.2%	75.1%	69.7%	62.1%	72.7%	56.7%	51.3%	54.6%	68.5%									
Annual Results	10,053	62.5%	73.1%	67.8%	60.4%	71.0%	55.6%	49.1%	52.4%	67.1%									

Performance of Grade 5 Students in Parish Schools

When assessed	Results	Performance Category		
		Needs Improvements	Proficient	Advanced
July thru Nov	Percent in Category	67.2%	30.6%	2.2%
	Number of Students	572	260	19
Dec thru Feb	Percent in Category	48.2%	45.2%	6.6%
	Number of Students	2,234	2,093	306
Mar thru June	Percent in Category	48.2%	44.0%	7.9%
	Number of Students	2,201	2,009	359
Annual Results	Percent in Category	49.8%	43.4%	6.8%
	Number of Students	5,007	4,362	684

Grade 8 NCEA ACRE Scores of Students in Parish School

When assessed	No of Student	Part I Total Score	Domain I 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	929	57.7%	63.7%	54.9%	59.4%	58.4%	65.4%	39.5%
Dec thru Feb	4,014	63.6%	70.4%	62.4%	63.7%	65.8%	71.1%	45.3%	70.0%	56.2%									
Mar thru June	4,341	63.3%	70.5%	61.8%	63.6%	65.1%	70.7%	46.1%	69.0%	55.8%									
Annual Results	9,284	62.4%	69.3%	60.8%	62.9%	64.2%	69.9%	44.6%	68.8%	55.1%									

Performance of Grade 8 Students in Parish Schools

When assessed	Results	Performance Category		
		Needs Improvements	Proficient	Advanced
July thru Nov	Percent in Category	63.9%	31.3%	4.7%
	Number of Students	594	291	44
Dec thru Feb	Percent in Category	48.2%	44.6%	7.2%
	Number of Students	1,936	1,790	288
Mar thru June	Percent in Category	49.1%	42.2%	8.7%
	Number of Students	2,130	1,832	379
Annual Results	Percent in Category	50.2%	42.1%	7.7%
	Number of Students	4,660	3,913	711

Grade 9 NCEA ACRE Scores of Students in Parish School

When assessed	No of Student	Part I Total Score	Domain I 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	141	56.8%	62.4%	49.2%	57.9%	61.3%	61.6%	43.9%
Dec thru Feb	235	69.7%	75.5%	69.3%	72.1%	71.2%	75.8%	54.2%	76.7%	60.0%									
Mar thru June	164	62.6%	68.1%	60.1%	64.5%	67.1%	72.1%	41.1%	68.8%	54.7%									
Annual Results	540	64.0%	69.6%	60.9%	65.9%	67.4%	70.9%	47.1%	71.4%	56.2%									

Performance of Grade 9 Students in Parish Schools

When assessed	Results	Performance Category		
		Needs Improvements	Proficient	Advanced
July thru Nov	Percent in Category	66.0%	32.6%	1.4%
	Number of Students	93	46	2
Dec thru Feb	Percent in Category	35.3%	50.2%	14.5%
	Number of Students	83	118	34
Mar thru June	Percent in Category	45.7%	39.0%	15.2%
	Number of Students	75	64	25
Annual Results	Percent in Category	46.5%	42.2%	11.3%
	Number of Students	251	228	61

Grade 11 NCEA ACRE Scores of Students in Parish School

When assessed	No of Student	Part I Total Score	Domain I 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	891	59.7%	67.3%	75.4%	68.9%	44.3%	57.0%	47.7%
Dec thru Feb	327	61.1%	67.8%	77.2%	71.4%	48.8%	57.9%	48.7%	65.5%	51.5%									
Mar thru June	205	62.2%	70.9%	75.3%	70.5%	50.7%	56.8%	52.0%	69.0%	52.4%									
Annual Results	1,423	60.4%	68.1%	75.7%	69.6%	46.4%	57.1%	48.7%	67.3%	49.9%									

Performance of Grade 11 Students in Parish Schools

When assessed	Results	Performance Category		
		Needs Improvements	Proficient	Advanced
July thru Nov	Percent in Category	58.8%	34.6%	6.6%
	Number of Students	524	308	59
Dec thru Feb	Percent in Category	58.4%	36.7%	4.9%
	Number of Students	191	120	16
Mar thru June	Percent in Category	50.2%	38.0%	11.7%
	Number of Students	103	78	24
Annual Results	Percent in Category	57.5%	35.6%	7.0%
	Number of Students	818	506	99

Grade 12 NCEA ACRE Scores of Students in Parish School

When assessed	No of Student	Part I Total Score	Domain I 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	3	77.8%	83.3%	95.8%	85.7%	54.2%	66.7%	83.3%
Dec thru Feb	110	73.3%	79.9%	84.6%	83.8%	55.9%	73.3%	67.8%	75.3%	65.4%									
Mar thru June	64	74.7%	78.8%	87.2%	82.0%	62.8%	71.2%	69.9%	78.5%	67.3%									
Annual Results	177	74.3%	79.5%	86.5%	83.0%	59.3%	71.9%	69.7%	77.6%	66.4%									

Performance of Grade 12 Students in Parish Schools

When assessed	Results	Performance Category		
		Needs Improvements	Proficient	Advanced
July thru Nov	Percent in Category	0	100%	0
	Number of Students	0	3	0
Dec thru Feb	Percent in Category	32.7%	43.6%	23.6%
	Number of Students	36	48	26
Mar thru June	Percent in Category	28.1%	50.0%	21.9%
	Number of Students	18	32	14
Annual Results	Percent in Category	30.5%	46.9%	22.6%
	Number of Students	54	83	40