



## **BOSTON COLLEGE'S URBAN CATHOLIC TEACHER CORPS MARKS A DECADE OF SERVICE TO THE CITY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**

CHESTNUT HILL, MA (August 2008) – With a desire to help children, Patrick Carpenter set his sights on public service after earning his undergraduate degree. Following a search of programs throughout the country, he picked Boston College's Urban Catholic Teacher Corps.

"I knew I wanted to do service and to me there is no greater service than to work with kids," said Carpenter, who arrived in Boston this summer to begin the program. "This program stood out nationally among so many others."

Carpenter is one of the six new members of the UCTC, picked from more than 30 applicants to live in a house in Dorchester with six other UCTC members halfway through their program. Each participant spends two years working in urban Catholic schools while also earning a Master's Degree from the Lynch School of Education.

Carpenter's group marks the 12<sup>th</sup> class of the UCTC, which during the past decade has sent 63 participants into the parochial schools of Boston to teach and work with children while living together in a spiritual community.

"That's 63 men and women providing two years of service during the past decade," said Lynch School Dean Fr. Joseph O'Keefe, SJ. "Think about how many children's lives have been changed for the better by Boston College students serving the city of Boston."

On August 20, Dean O'Keefe celebrated a 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary Mass at St. Mary's Chapel, attended by the current students, alumni and supporters, including Peter Lynch '65 a stalwart supporter of the city's Catholic schools and the man for whom the Carolyn and Peter Lynch School of Education is named.

The UCTC pioneered building a volunteer corps for Catholic schools and preparing prospective educators for the many challenges of urban parochial school teaching. It is the only one that requires participants to have prior teaching experience.

While students earn a master's degree, UCTC Program Director Karen M. Kennedy said students are drawn to service and spiritual enrichment.

"The big pull is doing service," says Kennedy. "They look at it as two years of service and the master's is the bonus. They are really here to serve for two years in an under-resourced Catholic school. They live in a faith-based community, eat dinner together, share household chores and hold a spiritual gathering once a week."

Rachel Rumely participated in the program and earned her master's degree in 2007. She then served as the house manager for a year. After working at St. Patrick's

parish school in Roxbury, Rumely begins teaching elementary students at Brighton's St. Columbkille parish school, which is run in partnership with the Lynch School.

Coming from Indiana, Rumely said she took a leap of faith when she headed for Boston. But the program welcomed her to the city and the University.

"It was a huge risk for me, but what made it feasible for me is that I was welcomed into a faith community," said Rumely. "You knew you would have a strong support system. I think one of the huge strengths of the program is that we have each other."

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