



LLN

**Lifelong
Learning
Network**

Serving Catholic School Administrators Since 1968

Company History

In 1968 five pastors in the Diocese of Toledo gathered to form the Catholic Leadership Company. This was in response to their awareness that Catholic Schools were going to be drastically changed forever. The women religious orders showed signs of

significant decrease in vocations, dwindling numbers, and religious superiors were encouraging traditional teaching orders to explore other areas of service to the community. That fact alone caused these priests to realize that if Catholic Schools were to survive the laity had to accept leadership for education.

The second concern that brought these pastors together was financial. The sisters had traditionally worked for almost no wage, or certainly for insignificant amounts of money. That would not be the case with the laity. These men feared the Catholic Schools may become schools for the rich, or at best, schools for only those who could afford to pay. How to best fund Catholic schools was a major issue that had to be faced. Today, after many years of research, Catholic Leadership Services has a unique financial planning program specifically for Catholic schools.

Thus the Catholic Leadership Company came into existence; Gary J. Sparks became the first lay principal in the Toledo Diocese and the president of the newly formed corporation. In the early years activity was confined to the Toledo Diocese, but with Gary's vision it soon spread throughout the United States, associated territories and other English speaking countries. Current plans include expansion to the Latino community.

The backbone of the company continues to be the monthly *Comprehensive Service for The Catholic School Administrator*. This management publication is entirely dedicated to the leaders in Catholic School education. It is the only publication completely committed to leadership formation in Catholic School education. A major goal of every Catholic School is to keep our education affordable so we offer a unique —

Financial Planning Strategy for Catholic Schools.

An outgrowth of that publication, *The Catholic School Administrator*, has been the continual publishing of other materials to enhance the work of the Catholic School Administrator. In 1999 the offices were completely revamped, revitalized and remodeled to reflect the Technological Age. Digital services, fiber optics, online services, Internet connections, use of web pages were installed. Now the company can better serve all Catholic School Administrators. Our website thecatholicschooladministrator.org hosts all our materials and is updated daily.

In 1990, after conferring with several Bishops, it was decided that the legal corporation needed to be renamed due to a canon law that restricts the use of the word Catholic. Since the Catholic Leadership Company was, and remains to be, an independent legally organized corporation it is not under the direct jurisdiction of any Bishop. Therefore, the legal corporate name became Lifelong Learning Network, Inc. with Catholic Leadership Services as the major subdivision.

Our mission remains the same today as outlined by the founding pastors, all of whom have gone to their eternal reward. That mission is serving the leaders of Catholic School education. Then in turn those administrators lead teachers by both example and presenting inservice programs that support and promote the identity of a Catholic education.

Our goal is to serve Catholic School leaders so God's family continues to be nourished in mind, spirit, and body; and we do this through providing materials our Catholic School Administrators.

TOGETHER WE CONTINUE TO PROVIDE QUALITY CATHOLIC EDUCATION!