My dear friends in Christ,

As we welcome students back to school this fall, I invite you to learn why supporting Catholic schools is part of the mission of every Catholic, not just that of parents with children in our schools. We are called to be instruments of evangelization in society by being witnesses to the love of God for all people. Your support of Catholic education, in whatever way you can, will help today’s students become tomorrow’s leaders in both society and the Church.

So many community and business leaders in Central Massachusetts are products of Catholic schools. Their alma maters did not boast the fanciest buildings, or the most expansive after-school programs, or even the flexibility to express one’s individuality in daily attire. What they did offer and continue to offer to this day, is attention to the individual student, sound academic and social formation, and, most importantly, learning what true success in life really means beyond how to make money. That was all possible because of the simple sign that hangs in every Catholic school: “Jesus is the reason for this school.”
How has a Catholic school education benefitted your life?

"My whole family went here. I went to church every Sunday, but coming here strengthened my faith and fostered the belief that God loves us. I always knew I wanted to be a teacher, but coming here showed me that I wanted to be a Catholic school teacher and foster faith in my students, teach the values that were instilled in me."

- Alicia Marculitis, 33

St. Peter Central Catholic Elementary School, Worcester, Class of 2003

"I went to St. Peter-Marian and then St. Paul. I think if I didn’t go there, it would not have made me the man I am today. And I think it gave me a wider perspective on life."

- Nicholas Army, 19

St. Paul Diocesan Junior/Senior High School, Class of 2021

Worcester State University student

"I really taught me the right and wrong morals in life. It showed me the benefits of being a good person and helping out the community in any way you can."

- Anthony Vinciquerra, 24

Holy Name Central Catholic Junior/Senior High School, Class of 2016

St. Paul Diocesan Junior/Senior High School facilities manager

"It gave me a sense of community and a sense of belonging. I came because they had a wonderful theatre program. What I found when I got here was about finding balance in life. You can have good days and bad days, but when you have faith, you have everything. Someone’s always there to lift you up. I’m still working here in this school because I believe the kids today should be able to experience (a place) where they’re loved and understood."

- Christine Seger, 55

Holy Name Central Catholic Junior/Senior High School, Class of 1984

St. Paul Diocesan Junior/Senior High School food service manager

"Being exposed to my faith on a daily basis really solidified what I was learning at home from my family. It helped me be proud of my faith and be able to share my faith outside of school."

- Sarah Kelly, 43

Our Lady of the Angels Elementary School, Worcester, Class of 1997

St. Peter Central Catholic School

"It strengthened my faith and it introduced me to Religious."

- Sister Janet Ballentine, Sister of Mercy of the Americas, 83

Ascension High School, Worcester, Class of 1957

HOW YOU CAN RESPOND:

ONLINE: schools.worcesterdiocese.org

BY MAIL: Send in the enclosed envelope with your donation.

DEAR FRIENDS AND FAMILIES,

Religion is not just one topic among others in Catholic schools. The relevance of our faith can be discussed in the context of every single topic taught in our classrooms, including science, math, history, literature and languages. It is also prevalent in after-school programs, sports and the arts. The Catholic school student learns that to live the good life is to live a life filled with meaning, which is not the same as living an easy life or a life focused on consumerism.

Today it is difficult for parents to pay tuition while also paying taxes that support public schools, but they know they are investing in their child’s future, both temporal and eternal. For many families, especially today’s immigrant families, that is not an option. Increasing access to financial aid takes everyone sharing in solidarity with our Catholic school families.

There are ways to support Catholic schools beyond financial assistance as well. Talk to family and friends about the value of the Catholic school option in our communities. Support their decision to choose a Catholic school. And never forget the power of prayer to support the work of our teachers, administrators and staff who are dedicated to the ministry of Catholic school education, a ministry which makes tangible the love of Jesus in the life of each student they encounter.

You can make a difference in the lives of Catholic school students today by being great leaders for tomorrow. Let Jesus in the life of each student they encounter.

Catholic school education, a ministry which makes tangible the love of Christ, is not the same as living an easy life or a life focused on consumerism.

Today is a time for us to reflect on the previous year and anticipate the upcoming school year. It is a time for viewing our work through a lens focused on continuous improvement. This year is not an exception yet is unique. Catholic school leaders, teachers and staff enter the 2022-23 school year praying that the pandemic is behind us. Vigilance in ensuring safe learning environments and strong partnerships with local health officials is paramount and will continue as part of a routine that has been established for nearly three years. I am proud of our educators and their work during this period. Their ability to adapt over the last few years has allowed us to provide students with an in-person Catholic education while many schools operated remotely or in other limited ways. As a result, many of our schools experienced an increased number of families seeking to enroll their children. As students returned to in-person learning in the last year, we observed that many of these families chose to continue with Catholic education for their children.

There is something unique about a Catholic education that cannot be found elsewhere. The student experience in our classrooms is always Christ-centered. The integration of Catholic teachings throughout the curriculum supports spiritual development. As students develop in a complex, increasingly secular world filled with confusing messages around morality, character, community and even science, the importance of faith-filled learning environments undergirded with Christian family values is critical.

Academically, our Catholic schools offer excellence within a faith-filled context. Our low teacher to student ratios ensure individualized attention for students. Students are taught the value of hard work, doing their best, and perseverance in achieving learning goals. Classroom activities are placed within the context of the larger community with many opportunities for service learning. Outside of the classroom, the performing arts, athletics and other extracurricular activities provide students with opportunities to develop leadership skills and to work collaboratively.

Our schools are funded almost exclusively through tuition. We intentionally keep rates as low as possible so that families can give the gift of a Catholic education to their children. However, each year there are families that are not able to enroll due to the cost. Our need-based financial aid program is overwhelmed due to rising costs both at home and in our schools.

As Superintendent, my goal is to provide a Catholic education for every student that desires one. Our society needs more young people who are well-grounded in our faith and whose voices will count in decision making and leadership of this country. To meet this goal, members of the Catholic community must see this as critically important and necessary. I recognize that you have many competing demands on your resources during these financially challenging times. Please join in this important quest and give as generously as you can to this year’s Catholic School Appeal.

Wishing you all God’s merciful blessings,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus
Bishop of Worcester

COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE IN ACADEMIC, PHYSICAL, AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION

BY MAIL:

IN PARISH:

Online: schools.worcesterdiocese.org

By mail: Send in the enclosed envelope with your donation.

Catholic School Facts:

Average class size:
- Elementary and Middle School: 18 Students
- High School: 19 Students

Daily Attendance Rate: 96%

High School Graduation Rate: 100%
Catholic school students get to apply their lessons outside the classroom, from extracurricular activities to community service, expressing their love for God by how they treat their neighbor.

### 2022 Catholic Schools Appeal ($78,031)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School, Town/City</th>
<th>Designated Distribution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Saints Academy, Webster</td>
<td>$3,321</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assumption School, Millbury</td>
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<tr>
<td>Holy Family Academy, Gardner</td>
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<td>Our Lady Of the Angels, Worcester</td>
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<td>Our Lady of the Valley Regional School, Uxbridge</td>
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<td>St Bernard Elementary School, Fitchburg</td>
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<td>St Bernadette School, Northborough</td>
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<td>St Joseph School, Webster</td>
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<td>St Mary School, Shrewsbury</td>
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<td>St Paul Diocesan Jr./Sr. High School, Worcester</td>
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<td>St Peter Central Catholic Elementary School, Worcester</td>
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<td>Trinity Catholic Academy, Southbridge</td>
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<td>Staff faith formation, curriculum and professional development</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other: Cost of promotional material production and postage</td>
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Diocese of Worcester Catholic Schools Office | 49 Elm Street, Worcester, MA 01609 | schools.worcesterdiocese.org