



THE DIOCESE KALAMAZOO

January 28, 2024

Dear Catholic School Administrators and Staff Members,

During this 50th anniversary of Catholic Schools Week I want to take the opportunity to thank you for your devotion and dedication. Since my ordination and installation this past July, I have had the great pleasure to celebrate Mass and visit some of our schools. I look forward to visiting more in the months to come.

This year's Catholic Schools Week theme, "United in Faith and Community" is evident in the twenty-one Catholic Schools in our diocese. This theme is also illustrated through your tireless efforts to form our young disciples. Sharing your God-given talents with your Catholic School community has a lasting impact on your students and contributes greatly to furthering the mission of the Church.

I know first-hand the significant sacrifices and hard work required of all educators. My first pastoral assignment as a newly ordained priest was to teach theology, Latin and German to middle school and high school students. Those five years were some of the most rewarding and inspiring of my priestly ministry. Additionally, as a former student I know the positive and life-changing impact educators have had on my own life and ministry.

On behalf of the entire diocese, I offer my heartfelt gratitude and acknowledgement of your significant contribution. Please know my prayers for you and your family.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend Edward M. Lohse
Bishop of Kalamazoo