

COURIER-JOURNAL

BACK TO SCHOOL

August 20, 1980

My dear Sisters and Brothers:

The invitation to contribute to this special section of the Courier-Journal is a welcome one.

I gladly call to your mind through these words the importance of our Catholic Schools and our common responsibility to support and promote them. They have been a privileged means of education in our nation and our diocese and even today offer quality Catholic education to thousands of our young people.

My congratulations and gratitude go to all who in any way make our schools the important centers of growth and learning which they are known to be. Your dedication and sacrifice — and these are always present where there is a vital Catholic School — are contributions which do much to build up the Body of Christ on earth.

At the beginning of this new school year I ask all who are involved in the life of our schools — administrators, faculty, parents and students — to be mindful of your call to contribute to the fulfillment of the mission of our schools. That is a mission to teach the Good News, build a loving community and to offer service to others.

In an age in which the values embodied in that mission are so strongly challenged and call all to a renewal spirit of self-giving and dedication, these are the qualities which have made the history of Catholic schools in our country such a rich one. They are the ones which will help us to meet in a constructive manner the problems now confronting us.

I hope to visit many of you in your schools during the year, and I ask that all of us join in prayer they we might all grow in the Lord's love and peace.

Your brother in Christ,

Matthew H. Clark

+ Most Reverend Matthew H. Clark, D.D.
Bishop of Rochester

