

**DISCOVERING...
SHARING...GROWING...
WORSHIPING...
LOVING...SERVING...**



**ENJOYING...
LEARNING...
WONDER...**

The Good News Message

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Superintendent of Schools



This year's Catholic Schools Week theme, "The Good News in Education: Catholic Schools," is a theme with a clear double meaning. Catholic schools make many vital contributions to many people and many institutions in our contemporary world. They are truly "Good News" in a multitude of ways. Central to "Good News" is, of course, another kind of "Good News" — the unique message of hope, trust and love which they share with young people from the beginning to the end of every school day — the good news of Christ, a view of life and death that is different from any world view found in the public sector.

Through Catholic Schools Week promotions and celebrations, we provide a time for reflection by students, faculty and family members alike on the importance of receiving a Catholic education; a time for pride; a time for gratitude; and an opportunity to spread the "Good News" about Catholic schools throughout our communities, counties, state and nation.

This past year, in one of the most extensive examinations of non-public schools ever sponsored by the federal government, sociologist James Coleman analyzed a vast body of government data on the performance of public, Catholic and other private school students. While variables such as family background were considered, Coleman attributed superior performance of Catholic and other private schools students to two factors: greater academic

demands and a more ordered environment. We mention this not to draw comparisons but to show that the Catholic school of 1982 is indeed a source of "Good News."

Our schools exist today — as always — to help parents hand on the good news of salvation to their children as they strive to teach students not only to earn a living, but to live a life. Speaking to students in New York City in 1979, Pope John Paul II described the Catholic school in the U.S. as "an excellent means not only for communicating the Gospel of Christ to the students, but also for permeating the community with Christ's truth and His love." An increase in school enrollment in our diocese this year bears witness to a recognition of these values.

Yes, Catholic schools are "Good News" to students attending them, their parents, their church and the communities of which they are a part. A Catholic education traditionally has meant — and continues to mean — academic excellence in a caring community, firm but Christian discipline and religious formation. The talent that is developed and the values that are nurtured contribute to a strong and just society.

We ask you to join us in a joyful, spiritual celebration of the week, and invite parents, interested Catholics and the general public to come and view our schools, our achievements and our shared ideals. We are grateful to you for your interest and support.



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