

# Catholic Schools Week

## Feb. 6- -Feb. 12



# IN GOD WE TRUST



### My Dear People,

The theme chosen for our celebration of Catholic Schools' Week in 1983 begins with the familiar words "In God We Trust," but then add "and Teach." We are reminded by this theme that we are an educational system within our country, but are independent in our philosophy and teaching.

The Catholic school system in the United States has a history of more than one hundred years that is not paralleled in any other country. The schools which were founded by the immigrants to preserve the faith and in some cases their ethnic heritage have grown to a system of schools serving more than five million students throughout the U.S. These schools have experienced the traumas of increased finances, decline of teaching Brothers and Sisters and being questioned from within the Church as to their value and contribution. They have withstood these tests and have examined their own purpose and direction to strengthen their existence as a viable means of Catholic education within our society today.

The past two decades have been times of tension for our Catholic schools. That tension has been creative in that it enabled parents and professional educators to direct the schools to fulfill the goals of Catholic education. The schools exist primarily to teach the Good News and to translate that proclamation into action.

We are proud of our 75 elementary and eight secondary schools which serve our diocese. We are proud of the response of these schools to be institutions encompassing

the twin purposes of Catholic education: personal sanctification and social reform in the light of Christian values.

We salute the men and women whose work helps to realize these purposes:

Parents — who select and support the schools and share with them the education and development of their children.

Clergy and school principals — who share in the leadership and guidance of the school programs and unite them with the parish family.

Teachers — whose academic expertise and personal witness are most valuable in the total formation in the lives of young people.

Students — who are our hope for the future and whose daily efforts move toward Christian adulthood.

May those involved in Catholic education realize that they are entrusted with the task of bringing about an integration of temporal reality with Gospel teaching so that the Gospel can be realized in the lives of all men and women. Belief in this mission will influence the reality of whether the world of tomorrow is more closely or more loosely bound to Christ!

With every blessing, I remain

Your brother in Christ,

*Matthew H. Clark*

Opening Catholic Schools Week will be Bishop Matthew H. Clark who will celebrate Mass at 2 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 6, at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

