



**By Sister Edwardine Weaver, RSM
Superintendent of Schools**

In God We Trust . . . and Teach — the theme for this 1983 celebration of Catholic Schools' Week is an expression of our dependence upon the Lord and of the further need for communicating a recognition of that dependence to young people. It is rich in meaning and message for it encourages us to focus on the provision of a learning environment which is a community of faith.

It is important that the citizen of today and tomorrow be a person of faith who brings his or her faith to bear on the problems in society. Catholic education has a vital role to play in developing citizens who are actors rather than reactors, willing to shape events rather than be shaped by them. Americans in general are recognizing that the teaching of values, critical to the formation of our young, cannot be neutral. It is not surprising then, that national Catholic

school enrollment figures have stabilized. In our own diocese, we are witnessing an increase in enrollment for the second successive year.

As we celebrate Catholic Schools' Week, Catholic educators have a right to take pride in their achievements. Is there another Church ministry which has been evaluated so often, so vigorously and with such positive results? One cannot recall any . . . and if that is the case, we thank each and every one of you — parishioners, parents, students, teachers, religious and clergy — who have done so much to make this claim possible. We invite and welcome you to participate in the programs and celebrations conducted in local schools throughout this week and encourage you to experience some of our present achievements.

We move into the challenges of the future with gratitude and trust, knowing that God's work must truly be our own. Knowing too, that if it is God's work, it will be fruitful.

... AND TEACH



Catholic Schools . . . A Parent's View

**By Michael S. Walker
President
Rochester Federation of
Catholic School Parents**

caring school administration, and good friends — all of which help the child grow in mind and spirit. We wonder about the influence of TV, radio, records, books and magazines.

On a recent cold evening, I settled down next to the fireplace and got out the family photo album. I leafed through it and came across a picture of our oldest son getting onto the school bus on his first day of kindergarten. A picture of this event is traditional in our family, and it made me curious about two other pictures that should also be in the album. There is quite an age spread between our children — our son is now in ninth grade and our daughters are in fifth and first grades.

We in the Rochester Federation of Catholic School Parents spend a lot of time encouraging parents to get involved in their schools. I recall a recent newspaper story about parents who were suing a public school district because their child had been disciplined. There were very few details given and no hint of the child's offense. I reflected for a moment on what my reaction might be in a similar circumstance. Would I assume my child could do no wrong, or would I be more inclined to thank the principal for helping to strengthen my child's character through discipline?

The pictures brought back memories of that lump in the throat as we launched each of our children into the world.

I sighed and picked up the album again, reminiscing over family vacations, birthdays, holidays and school events. There were pictures of three kindergarten graduations and an eighth grade graduation. I thought about the theme for this year's Catholic Schools Week, "In God We Trust and Teach," and breathed a "Thanks, pardner!" to our children's schools.

As we parents stand there alone waving to a school bus full of noisy children, we realize that we have lost a little of our grip on our kids. I suppose it's natural to project ourselves 10 or 15 years into the future and wonder what will influence their lives. We pray and hope for kind, inspiring teachers (not necessarily "easy" ones though), a firm,

