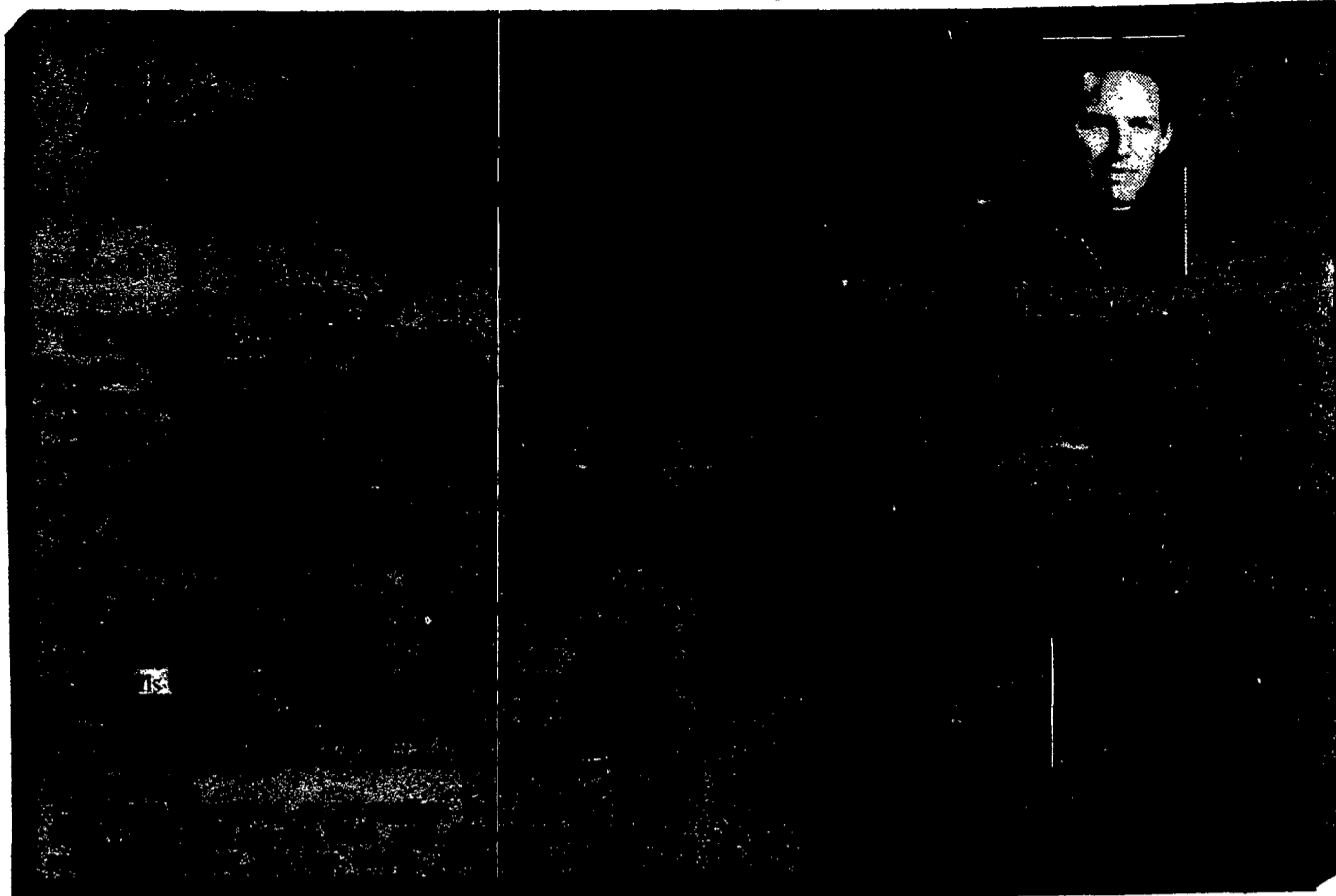


# CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

## Sharing the Vision. Teaching the Faith.



There is no question that attending a Catholic school from kindergarten through graduation from law school has had an important influence on my life. The discipline, instruction and the attention that I received during those 20 years was an invaluable complement to the lessons of life that I learned from my parents. The role of Catholicism was important to me in my formative years because it placed the different values of the world in proper perspective. It is even more important now as I make decisions which affect people on a day-to-day basis. Hopefully, I make them with the same care and compassion that permeated my instruction in the Catholic school system.



**Ralph J. Esposito**  
Deputy County Executive  
Gates

Any school can offer the opportunity to acquire knowledge, but knowledge alone will not prepare you for life. My Catholic education provided me with a value system and a sense of ethics which enables me to face the pressures and stress of my profession and modern life. Beside offering a solid curriculum and dedicated teachers, Catholic education gives us learning with a moral basis desperately needed in today's world. It is summed up in the motto of one school which I attended: "Bonitatem, et Disciplinam et Scientiam Doce Me." (Teach me kindness, discipline and knowledge.)

**Edward A. Wurtz**  
Attorney  
Rochester

Education in Catholic schools has opened my mind, opened my heart, opened my eyes and opened my arms. The quality academic opportunities that were presented through the years led me to a degree in mathematics and certification as a secondary school teacher. But, alongside school subjects there were always various clubs and organizations that fostered the practice of the Catholic faith, Christian fellowship and good citizenship.

I was not kept in a "bubble" -- unaware of the people and world around me. Neither was I led to believe that I was better than anyone else, or that "I" came first. Whatever talents and gifts I've been blessed with are meant to be shared -- especially, in my case, in supporting, improving and fostering Catholic education.



**Annette DeCarolis**  
Homemaker  
Rochester

In an age when so many are engaged in a faltering quest for meaning to their lives, and when so many, too, regard such a quest as an exercise in futility, I cherish the Catholic education that I received at St. James School in Waverly for endowing my life with a rich meaning and purpose firmly based in a Father's creative care.

His fond and redeeming care and the secure guidance of the Holy Spirit, and, as if this were not riches enough, I learned that Jesus has given His own Mother to be mine as well.

My education at St. James School gave meaning to my life. It helped me to know where I'm going and what God has in store for me after the trials of this life.

**Sharon Mente**  
Parish secretary  
St. James Church  
Waverly

The education I received during my formative years (grades 1-8) at St. John of Rochester were instrumental in helping me attain the goals I have. Athletically, academically and socially, S.J.R. gave me guidance and taught me to have faith and be strong in these three areas. I can't say enough about the Catholic schools education I received.

**Paul O'Malley**  
Student  
Ithaca College

I feel that my Catholic school education gave me a head start and prepared me well for dealing with the many pressures found in our fast moving society. The discipline, structure and Christian principles of fair play and love are the basics that were experienced through my education. In order to resolve conflicts in business, family and government, the use of the sound, solid Christian attitudes and beliefs developed through my formal Catholic education are called upon regularly.



**Peter C. Pecor**  
Vice President  
Key Bank  
Rochester

As a convert at the age of 22, I did not experience a parochial education. However, I wish to express my appreciation as a mother, a teacher, and a retired guidance counselor.

Our children attended a Catholic elementary school, where they received a fine education academically, along with the spiritual and moral development we wished for them. They were happy years and we found such support in that teaching and discipline so closely matched our philosophy of child development.

Though a parochial high school was not available, our children elected Catholic universities for their undergraduate studies. We were very much impressed with the quality and breadth of their education, along with the personal interest and support shown by their professors.

Our children now have spouses and children, all of whom display solid values, love of family and spiritual awareness. Perhaps this would have taken place without a parochial education, yet we thank God each day that, whatever the various influences, we enjoy a family which is loving and happy, caring and mature in their relationships. We recognize their educational environment as a very real aspect in their lives and shall always be grateful that alternative education was available to us.

**Betty Arcangeli**  
Retired guidance counselor  
Hornell

I've attended Catholic schools all over the country: kindergarten, the Maryknoll Mission, Honolulu, Hawaii; second grade in Philadelphia; fifth through eighth grades, Portsmouth, N.H.; ninth grade, Montgomery, Ala.

My father was a naval officer so every move we were enrolled in Catholic schools when there was room.

Our seven children have all attended Catholic schools. They graduated from St. Thomas the Apostle and Bishop Kearney High School. (Martha, our youngest, is a freshman at B.K.)

I'm still "attending" a Catholic school! For the past one and a half years I've been the religious education coordinator at St. Thomas.



**Mrs. Jane Riester**  
RE Coordinator  
Irondequoit

In review of the years since we finished our combined 21 years of Catholic education, the following has taken place:

We've been married 26 years; we had five sons -- most attended Catholic schools from primary to college years; our eldest son has been teaching in a Catholic school for for three years; two sons graduated from a Catholic college and are planning for graduate studies in the field of law.

We are also involved in St. Thomas the Apostle Parish as officers and participants in the Home-School Association, Parish Life, Board of Education, Parish Council, and liaison to the West Irondequoit School District. Our sons have been active in parish life and extracurricular activities at school such as Red Cross, band, student government, etc.

The impact for the family has been that we have tried to impress our sons that the Christian life has goals in working and helping all people. In order to bring Christ into each person's life, we should try to live a "Christ-like life" in our everyday endeavors.

We believe we all have been the richer in having had the religious reflection in our lives through the Catholic schools in our community.



**Alex and Virginia Johnson**  
Irondequoit

Without a doubt my eight years at St. Patrick's School in Owego were the happiest time of my life.

I felt very loved and accepted in every way. I certainly was instilled with a never-ending love of God and a deep appreciation of the Catholic religion.

In addition, I now realize that I received excellent academic instruction!

**Ann Blanchard Evans**  
Homemaker  
Owego

In addition to receiving a quality education, the Catholic school teacher put discipline and moral values into my life. These two qualities have helped me achieve my goals in life.



**Anthony F. Bonadio**  
Family Court Judge  
Monroe County

Catholic education has had a great impact on my life. The academics, humanity and Christianity taught have provided a basis of faith and courage to face any problem. I will always cherish the love and concern generated by all faculty and staff at Blessed Trinity School.

**Katherine Davis**  
High school student  
Auburn

The advantages and unique features of a parochial education are perceived by each individual according to their experiences, both during the period of education and in the years that follow.

My reflection of Catholic schools, both elementary and secondary, recalls the enthusiasm and dedication of the educators. We were inspired by their attitude and example, to believe that work and study would prepare us for a happy and productive future, and that the attainment of one's goals was limited only by their effort and their desire to succeed.

This inspiration of hope and confidence in the future is all the more remarkable when one considers that the years involved were in the midst of the depression when much of the country had lost hope.

**William J. Heneghan, D.D.S.**  
Oral surgeon  
Pittsford

