



DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER  
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Bishop's Office

My dear people,

During the week of February 2-8, we are called to celebrate the gift and grace of Catholic Schools within our diocese and across the nation. The theme selected for this year is "A Rainbow of Excellence." It is a theme that brings many images to our minds and hearts as we think with gratitude of the service of our schools in the past and as we look ahead to the challenges and hopes they hold for all of us!

The rainbow is a sign of God's love and covenant with His people. We can envision Christ as the light that shines through the rainbow and uses the medium of education to bring His word to all.

We look upon our schools as the prism in which the gospel message and human wisdom meet, bringing a blend of peace and understanding to all who are touched by them.

The many colors of the rainbow symbolize the various people who make the schools living and active — the parents, teachers, administrators, parish priests and especially the students who give their vitality and hope. This blending and harmonizing of dedicated people brings service and witness to the larger community and in many ways to the world itself.

I call upon all of our Catholic community to join with me in gratitude to the men and women who serve within our schools. Let us celebrate with them for all that has been and let us continue to support them with our prayers and assistance to carry on that mission of faith and excellence!

With every blessing, I remain

Your brother in Christ,

+ Matthew H. Clark  
Bishop of Rochester

*This Love Endures Forever*

### Preserving fleeting beauty of 'rainbow' depends upon commitment of all parties

By Sister M. Edwardine Weaver  
Superintendent of Schools

The national theme of Catholic Schools' Week, "Catholic Schools — A Rainbow of Excellence," focuses on the array of colors in the rainbow as a reflection of the diversity in the Catholic school population and the sign of hope for the future that these schools provide.

This rainbow of excellence reflects more than the well-documented academic success of our schools. Recent studies have also pointed out that attendance in Catholic schools has a significant impact on the religious behavior of young people. The influence of the school rests not only on the formal religious instruction, but also on the whole atmosphere of the Catholic school. Research has indicated that there are significant correlations between attendance in Catholic schools and adult religious behavior.

A rainbow is indeed "a thing of beauty," but it is a fleeting thing. It can be "a joy forever" only if one seizes the moment, looks intently at the colors and at the shining beams of sunlight around it. It can have a lasting effect only if the essence of the rainbow is made part of one's consciousness.

It is the task of the Catholic school educator to help students to really look at the rainbow of excellence which is their Catholic school education — to make their love of a loving God a part of their lives; to understand the concepts of truth, of self-worth and the dignity of all human beings; to seek in the rainbow a glimpse of their individual talents; to find in the rainbow inspiration for serving others, for reaching out to their

neighbors in friendship and peace.

Far more, while striving for excellence in the areas of professional and technical training, Catholic schools must never forget that their ultimate purpose is to prepare young people to take up, in Christian freedom, their personal and social responsibilities for the human pilgrimage toward eternal life.

Pope John Paul II, speaking on Catholic schools in September, 1984, stated: "We cannot leave God at the schoolhouse door. Dear teachers and parents, the Catholic school is in your hands. It is a reflection of your convictions. Its very existence depends on you. A Catholic school is a privileged place for the development and communication of a world-view rooted in the meaning of creation and redemption. It is a community effort, one that cannot succeed without the cooperation of all concerned — students, parents, teachers, principals and pastors."

This rainbow of excellence, the Catholic school, is rooted in commitment. Commitment is essential to its future. Experience has proven that regardless of location, it is strong leadership and the sacrifice of parents, pastors, teachers and administrators who are willing to give generously to a cause that is greater than themselves that will continue this rainbow of excellence.

This rainbow challenges students to become all that they are capable of becoming. When this challenge is accepted in faith, somewhere over that rainbow, the dreams that one dares to dream really do come true!

Thank you to all those who so generously dare to dream and to sacrifice to make those dreams a reality... a rainbow of excellence!

### Upstairs Youth Agency

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percent of those 5,000 children are learning disabled. Emotionally disabled children make up 15 percent of that group, while 12 percent are mentally retarded. But budget cuts are particularly hard on recreational programs for disabled people.

Although Upstairs was founded by staff from two Catholic churches and is still sponsored by St. Monica's Parish, it is primarily a non-denominational program. Funding is now provided by a special legislative grant from New York State Division of Youth Services, as well as Monroe County, Arts of Greater Rochester, the Joseph and Marie Wilson Foundation, the United Way (through a designated-donor system) and the Diocese of Rochester.

August never expected to someday work in St. Monica's School, which he attended from first to third grades. But he took on the director's job last June because he was tired

of traveling, and Upstairs seemed a worthy way to keep busy while he searched for another job in Rochester. He's still looking for other work, but in the meantime Upstairs has become more than just a temporary interest for him.

One reason he feels strongly about the agency is that unlike many large nonprofit organizations, it uses little of its \$20,000 annual budget on overhead costs.

"Look around," he said gesturing at the walls of his small one-room office on the second floor of St. Monica's School. "There's no big staff, no fancy offices, no secretary... The money in the budget goes to the kids."

"I don't want it (Upstairs) to die, and I don't ever want it to cost the parish money," he added. "I frankly get a better feeling from doing this every day than from making \$30,000 a year. Here, I can go out with no problem and ask for money with an honest heart because I know it's helping kids."

### Celebrating Catholic Schools Week



Jeff Goulding/Courier-Journal  
St. Augustine's School opened its celebrations of Catholic Schools Week with a Mass on Sunday, Feb. 2. This young lady sought her parents in the pews as she passed by in the entrance processional.



Jeff Goulding/Courier-Journal  
Fourth grader Teshawanna Rose is all smiles during Mass.



Jeff Goulding/Courier-Journal  
Adriana Spikes concentrates on the first reading.

### Lecture Series at Nazareth

The author of "People of the Lie: The Hope for Healing Human Evil" and "The Road Less Traveled" will deliver a series of three lectures concluding Community Enhancement Week at Nazareth College. Scott Peck will speak Sunday, Feb. 9, on "Spirituality and the Psychology of Human Nature" at 3 p.m., "Sexuality and Spirituality: Kissing Cousins" at 4:45 p.m.,

and "The True Meaning of Community" at 8 p.m. If time permits, a question-and-answer period will follow each session. A \$10 fee covers all three talks.

Peck, who earned a bachelor's degree from Harvard University and a medical degree from Case Western University, speaks widely on the relationship between religion and science.

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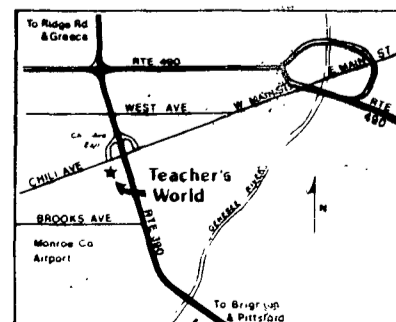
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