



Bishop's Office

DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER  
1150 Buffalo Road • Rochester, NY 14624  
(716) 328-3210

August, 1988

My Dear People,

During the past nine years, I have had the opportunity and the pleasure of visiting many of our elementary and all of our secondary schools. I have been encouraged as I met and talked with our young people and became aware of their appreciation of faith and sense of values. I realize that Catholic school education continues to be available because of the sacrifices of many of our dedicated parents, teachers and parishioners.

I have encouraged and monitored the steps that have been taken to plan for future direction of the schools. Challenges and struggles continue as we look at finances, enrollment and conditions of our buildings. Yet the final product of a truly Catholic school education is a goal that is worth the struggle.

In March of this year, I called the leadership of all our parishes in Monroe County to join together to look at ways of reconfiguring and refinancing the schools. The work of these "quadrants" has been reinforced by the support of our diocesan Board of Education, the Implementation Committee studying elementary schools in Monroe County, and the committee working on recommendation three of the Five Year Financial Plan. Literally, hundreds of people have given time and effort to this project.

In the next few weeks, I will call leadership from parishes outside of Monroe County to gather to examine possible ways that they may support each other in looking at plans for a well-integrated catechetical plan of which our schools are a part. It is encouraging to see our people come together to examine a common cause and a common need.

It is also encouraging to know that each of the groups working on this project have been most concerned that the needs of the poor and the availability of Catholic school education to the poor are primary goals.

As we begin our new academic year, let us continue to pray and to collaborate to develop a viable structure for our schools for the future.

With every blessing, I remain,

Your brother in Christ,

+ Matthew H. Clark  
Bishop of Rochester

*His Love Endures Forever*



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1150 BUFFALO ROAD • ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14624  
(716) 328-3210

August, 1988

Dear Friends,

As we approach the beginning of a new academic year, I wish to take the opportunity to thank all of you who make it possible to continue the legacy of Catholic school education within our diocese. More than one hundred years ago, under the leadership of Bishop McQuaid, the Catholic schools within our diocese began serving our people and have continued to give an opportunity for academic excellence in an environment of religious teaching and living.

In 1988 we are preparing young men and women to become the leaders of our Church and society in the next century. Their education must be rooted in the Gospel message. They will continue to be faced by the many problems of society, affected by materialism and the spirit of competition. They need to possess a foundation in Christian values and beliefs to be counter-cultural in society.

Recent reports from the National Catholic Education Association address the challenges that face Catholic schools today in light of increased costs, but at the same time applaud them for better financial planning and management. Leaders at the parish level have met the challenges and have used their talents and resources to meet these needs.

We have been encouraged by the report by James Coleman, which testifies to the excellence of graduates from Catholic schools. Secretary of Education William Bennett has both praised and challenged the Catholic schools to continue to serve the culturally, educationally and economically disadvantaged.

These goals are possible in our diocese because of the many sacrifices made by all of our people. We welcome the opportunity to join with our parish leaders, our parents, our faculties and students to make the 1988-89 academic year one that will bring faith, enlightenment and happiness to all involved. Each one of you contributes to this ongoing ministry in our Church.

Gratefully,

Sister Roberta Tierney, SSND  
Director of Education

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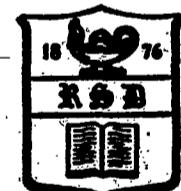
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