

# Education



DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER  
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Dear Friends:

One of the most challenging and difficult things for any organization is to prepare for the future. Our diocese is currently immersed in this endeavor, exploring how the Pastoral Center can better serve parishes, encouraging parishes to work together to envision the parish of the future, and making progress toward all of our Synod priorities. These tasks require the wisdom and gifts of many individuals who are willing to explore, analyze, discuss, discern and pray together. Those who will be successful are able to synthesize new information and use it to build upon a foundation of firmly held principles and beliefs.

As we enter the "Back to School" time of year, we should all be reminded that education and faith formation are the cornerstones that will shape how our children will view and respond to the world they will someday inherit. Traditional elementary and secondary schooling can provide students with skills they will need their whole lives. Faith formation programs enrich an individual's personal relationship with God, and develop a perspective on life that focuses on serving others and building community.

However, we must remember that our faith formation and education are never complete. We are fortunate that so many opportunities exist within our diocese and parishes for individuals of all ages to grow in faith and knowledge. I encourage each of you to seek out opportunities throughout the year to enrich your faith. Whether you are a participant in a small Christian community, a member of a parish youth group, or a student in a Catholic school, your personal growth will help us all to shape a vibrant Catholic community in the years ahead. Have a wonderful and growth-filled year!

With every best wish, I remain

Your brother in Christ,

†Matthew H. Clark  
 Bishop of Rochester



Dear friends,

At this time of year, when schools open, we are all reminded of the role education plays in our lives. Many of our parish initiatives resume in September. As we enter the parish planning process, we will be examining all the things that indicate vitality in our parish communities. At the heart of each of our communities must be an abiding commitment to ongoing formation in faith for all the people of the community.

In this diocese we have been blessed with a long tradition of quality programs to assist in the formation and education of the faithful. Catholic schools are the primary way many children are educated and formed in faith. Even more children return to public schools and continue their faith formation through religious education or family faith formation programs. Countless teens participate in youth ministry opportunities. There are creative and exciting opportunities for adults to foster their own growth in faith.

All these programs depend on the commitment of the thousands of women and men who work as principals, catechetical leaders, Catholic school teachers and volunteers. It is through their work that the Church's catechetical ministry is realized. We are grateful for their dedication and service.

This is an exciting and challenging time. As we plan for our future in anticipation of the new millennium, we must be open to the creative opportunities this season offers us. We are called to a spirit of cooperation, hope and prayerfulness.

Our mutual respect and cooperation are the tools for building our future. Let us continue the good work we have begun together.

Sincerely,

Tim Dwyer  
 Superintendent of Schools

Maribeth Mancini  
 Coordinator Faith Development  
 Ministry Services



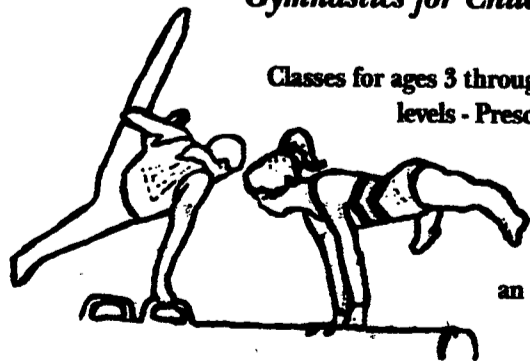
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