

FOCUS ON EDUCATION



DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

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My dear people,

It doesn't seem possible that the wonderful warm days of summer are coming to a close and that we are preparing for fall, the beginning of the academic year and many of our parish faith formation programs.

Our focus at this time of year naturally turns first to children. We as adults bear a particular responsibility to them to serve as models and teachers of our faith. Our parish catechetical programs and our Catholic schools partner with parents and guardians to assure that children have the opportunity to grow in wisdom, age and grace.

As this academic year begins, I invite parents and guardians in a particular way to take stock of the traditions and customs in your home and to consider how these reflect the values you hold important. You are the first and most significant teachers of your children. This is a good time of year to strengthen the things that are positive and to add new customs and traditions that reflect the Gospel we hold dear.

I also invite other adults to consider how your lives model the Gospel for the young and for all the community. All of us can take this time to renew our personal commitment to our own growth in faith and to decide how we will strengthen our own knowledge and faith this year.

I promise to pray for you this year. I ask you to pray for me as we embark on another busy season of learning and growing in the Gospel.

With every good wish, I remain

Your brother in Christ,

Matthew H. Clark
Matthew H. Clark
Bishop of Rochester

God's Love Endures Forever

DEPARTMENT OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

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Dear Friend of Catholic Education,

One of the benefits of summer vacation for Catholic schools is the opportunity it gives us for a new start each year. Each student, teacher, parent, principal and even the superintendent can begin again and make this coming year whatever we want it to be. Having made a huge geographic leap across the country, from ministering in Portland, Oregon to here in the Diocese of Rochester, I am especially conscious of new beginnings this year. I am looking at the Diocese and its schools with new eyes. I am already impressed with much of what I have seen.

The Institute on Catholic Education at the University of Rochester gave me an opportunity to meet a number of our principals and teachers who took time out of their summer to enhance this professional growth. This and other opportunities administrators and faculty pursue insure that we will begin this coming year not only as good as we have always been, but better.

Some of you, especially those without children in Catholic schools, may not know that our teachers are already a source of pride for this diocese. Not only are our classroom teachers certified, but over 50% of our teachers have master's degrees. Nationally, the percentage of Catholic schoolteachers with master's degrees is approximately 25%.

I know that I have come to a diocese with a strong and vital system of Catholic Schools. I am also aware that these are the kind of schools that are able to become even better. I look forward to working with Diocesan staff, principals, pastors, teachers, parents and board members to insure that our schools continue to pursue excellence, in our teaching, in our values and in our faith. Our world and our church require it of us at this time. For the sake of our children, let's begin anew.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Meegan, OP
Elizabeth Meegan, OP

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