



# CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE

Diocese of Springfield

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Dear parents of students in our Catholic schools,

May God's peace be with you.

Happy Catholic Schools Week. We hope that, in each of your schools, you have celebrated well the unique gift that is a Catholic education.

As many of you know, last spring the Pathways to Faith Commission released a report that aims to revitalize our Catholic schools. Since that report has come out, many things have happened to move that initiative from strategic plan to strategic action. We have a long way to go, but we want to take this opportunity to share with you some of the exciting things that have happened and are happening as a result of the report.

For those who don't know, the Pathways to Faith Report created a list of recommendations, in critical areas, to support our school system and the individual schools. Evangelizing mission, excellence in all aspects of school life, accessibility, good stewardship, and empowering governance structures were the five pillars supporting the recommendations. In each of these areas, progress has been made. One school already has started offering weekly Mass and others are piloting new Religion resources. We are working with a few parishes to open preschools in areas that are currently underserved by our Catholic school system. Several schools are working with enrollment consultants and have formed enrollment management teams. We will be centralizing our student information database. Some of our professional development monies have already been pooled to provide high quality professional development. We are providing School Board development for many of our parish and diocesan schools. Bishop Rozanski has formed a Commission for Catholic Education, a group of highly motivated and talented individuals to help support the entire system. Finally, we continue to work diligently to restructure financial assistance so schools can better provide need-based assistance to families who desire a Catholic education.

These are exciting times in Catholic education in the Diocese of Springfield. We are just at the beginning stages of this effort and we need your continued prayers and support as we move forward in providing resources and support to our schools and the families they serve. Our schools are vital and vibrant places with dedicated teachers and administrators who truly care for the unique gift each child is to them. They are places where everyone is welcome and Christ is truly present. Our schools are places where we form the leaders of our future and present to them the God who desires to love them. There is no greater gift than this.

Finally, we know that the very best way to market our schools is through your good words and work. If you believe that a Catholic education is something that is valuable, invite others to share in this gift as well.

God bless you and your family, and be assured of our prayers.

In Christ through Mary,

Daniel R. Baillargeon, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools  
Diocese of Springfield

Pax Christi,

Joshua Agnew  
Assistant Superintendent of Schools  
Diocese of Springfield