



Diocese of Norwich
Office of the Bishop
201 Broadway
Norwich, Connecticut 06360
(860) 887-9294

MOST REVEREND
MICHAEL R. COTE, D.D.

October 28, 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,

With the beginning of a new school year, the Fall also provides us with an opportunity to celebrate *Discover Catholic Schools Week* which is being held from November 14 – 20, 2021. This is the first of two national celebrations marking the importance and value of Catholic education in our nation. In the new year, from January 30 – February 5, 2022, we will likewise celebrate *National Catholic Schools Week*. This year's theme is: "Catholic Schools: Learn, Serve and Lead."

These celebrations have been designated as an opportunity both to recognize the excellence of our Catholic Schools and to showcase what makes Catholic education a unique and worthy investment of our time, talent, and treasure. In order to keep our schools safe during the COVID-19 pandemic, which sadly limits access to our facilities, our schools have nevertheless found innovative ways to promote their mission through videos, photos, animated clips, websites, and social media.

Some of the many benefits of a Catholic Education are:

- Catholic Schools benefit all year long from the religious guidance, prayers and support parishes provide.
- A central aspect of Catholic education is learning the importance of service to others. When students take part in service activities, they demonstrate the values and faith gained through a Catholic education.
- Catholic Schools recognize students' diverse accomplishments.
- Catholic Schools communicate the values of a Catholic education to government leaders.
- By focusing on faith, knowledge and service, Catholic Schools prepare children to use their God-given talents to the fullest later in life
- Catholic School students appreciate the teachers, principals as well as administrators and staff who support them in their work and thank those who provide volunteer services.
- Parents, guardians, and other family members also play a vital role in Catholic education. Not only do they volunteer at our schools, but they also instill values and set expectations for academic excellence in their children at home. (NCEA)

I invite you to avail yourselves of the opportunities offered through these celebrations to learn more about our Catholic schools and how you can help to support them in their mission of educating our young people. I would likewise ask you to consider a Catholic education for your daughter, son, grandchild, niece, or nephew. Please be assured of my prayers for God's abundant blessings on the school year and upon all the students, parents, faculty, and staff in our school communities.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Bishop of Norwich