

Dear Friends,

Praised be Jesus Christ!

We have just celebrated Catholic Schools Week I am, once again, reminded of the great importance of Catholic Education. The family is, certainly, the domestic Church. It is the place where the faith is first learned. Then, here at the parish and school, that faith is nourished and grows as the child grows. The answers to the toughest of life's questions are given to our young people now so that, with Jesus, they may be guided by their Catholic Faith.

At the same time, we also celebrate academic excellence. Catholic schools are consistently rated very high in terms of the quality education provided and the readiness of students as they go to high school. I know for our school, we receive feedback from our alumni that they felt very prepared across all subjects. I wish to acknowledge and honor our tremendous school. How blessed we are to have Mrs. Linda Joyner as our principal along with an incredible staff and faculty. For them, this is their mission and vocation, not just a job. Their care and love for the students is rooted in the love of Jesus and I would say that is what sets us apart. What a blessing that we can gather for Mass, pray together, and celebrate the sacraments. The value of that reality is priceless. Please join me in a prayer of thanksgiving for our school, faculty, staff, students, and parents. I am eternally grateful that our parents entrust their students to our care confident that they will grow in knowledge and faith.

In 2022 His Holiness Pope Francis said, "Catholic education is also evangelization: bearing witness to the joy of the Gospel and its power to renew our communities and provide hope and strength in facing wisely the challenges of the present time". As we look to our young people, who are our future, we are forming them to be the evangelists who bring the joy of the Gospel to a fallen world. Pope Francis continues, "In short, this means forming the head, hands and heart together: preserving and enhancing the link between learning, doing and feeling in the noblest sense. In this way, you will be able to offer not only an excellent academic curriculum, but also a coherent vision of life inspired by the teachings of Christ".

I wish to leave you with a prayer for Catholic Schools:

Good and gracious God, we pray that the focus and foundation of our Catholic schools will always be the person of Jesus Christ. May we remember that we are called to work together as part of your universal Church to build your kingdom in our midst. Let each of our Catholic schools, no matter how large or how small, whether urban, suburban, or rural, be recognized by its commitment to excellence, its efforts to form the whole child, its hospitality towards all, and its intentional development as a community of faith, collaboration, trust, and love. Help us to view every aspect of our world through the lens of the Gospel and the teachings of our faith, and let every member of our Catholic school communities become a visible example of what it means to put faith into action. Amen.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Aaron R. Laskiewicz
Pastor