



Office of the Bishop

Diocese of Rockford

555 Colman Center Drive
P.O. Box 7044
Rockford, Illinois 61125

(815) 399-4300
Fax (815) 399-4769

November, 2010

Dear Parents,

Thank you for realizing the importance that faith formation plays in your child's life and for taking the steps necessary to enroll them in your parish Religious Education Program. Making a commitment to nurturing your child's faith development is an investment you will never regret.

As a Catholic family in the Diocese of Rockford, you have made religious education a priority in your lives. I ask you now to consider broadening that education to include the possibility of enrolling your child in one of our excellent Catholic elementary or high schools. I realize that there are numerous factors that affect the decision to enroll your child in a Catholic school but the benefits are great. First and foremost your child will be in an environment where the "Good News" of Jesus Christ is proclaimed, taught and modeled on a daily basis. The value of this experience for our Catholic children and young adults cannot be underestimated.

Additional benefits to enrolling in our Catholic schools include a superb academic environment (low student/teacher ratios and college and career preparatory coursework) and high standards for discipline and structure. Our students also typically score higher on standardized testing than do their counterparts in the public schools. Recent testing data backs up this claim. Our elementary students score, on average, in the top 25% nationally on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (I.T.B.S.) and our high school students' average A.C.T. score for 2010 was almost 3.5 points higher (24.1) than their public school counterparts (20.7) in the State of Illinois.

In the Rockford Diocese we have almost 14,000 children enrolled in 8 high schools and 40 elementary schools. It is a Pre-K-12 school system that produces exceptional young scholars with a strong faith base. While our elementary schools will be starting registration for the 2011-12 school year around Catholic Schools Week in February, most of our high schools will be hosting open houses in November and December. Our Catholic school administrators are anxious to meet you and discuss the strengths of each of their programs.

Investing in your children's academic, personal and spiritual development is the greatest investment you as parents can make, and the place to make that investment is in a Catholic school. I hope you will consider making a call or visit to one of our wonderful elementary schools and or high schools and find out more about their specific programs.

With the Advent Season just around the corner, I extend my blessing to each of you and your family. May Our Lord Jesus Christ fill your hearts and homes with the graces and blessings of this upcoming Holy Season.

With every good wish, I remain

Cordially yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend Thomas G. Doran, D.D., J.C.D.
Bishop of Rockford