

# COMMITTED *to encountering* Christ

2018  
Supporting  
Catholic Schools in the  
Diocese of Worcester



*"I love that my son looks forward to school every morning!"*

*— Parent, St. Joseph School, Webster*



## SPIRITUAL FORMATION

As the 2018-19 school year gets underway, we invite you to consider how you can be part of the mission of Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Worcester by supporting the 2018 Catholic Schools Appeal. If you are a product of a Catholic education, we ask that you consider prayerfully how you can give thanks to God for the gift of that educational opportunity by helping another student experience a Catholic education for their future.

# OUR COMMITMENT

Dear Benefactors,

In 2017-18, Catholic schools in the Diocese educated over 6,000 students. The families of these students chose our schools for many reasons: a faith-based education that deepens students' relationship with Christ; excellent academics and extracurricular activities; our small class sizes and school environments that are conducive to self-discipline and character development; and our commitment to service.

For all of these reasons, I am proud of the education that is provided by our Catholic schools. Yet we face a significant challenge in that many families who desire a Catholic education in our schools are not able to afford the rising cost of tuition. Tuition has risen because the costs of running high-quality schools have steadily increased. Additionally, buildings need to be maintained, which is essential to ensuring the safety and security of children in our schools. And we must continue to invest in our teachers as well as their curricular materials and technology so that our graduates are ready for college and careers.

While we distributed over \$750,000 in financial aid to eligible students in 2017-18, we were unable to assist many more families who wanted to enroll their children but could not. This is heartbreaking for me, and I turn to you with a request for help.

Passing on the Catholic faith is central to the mission of the Church. Catholic schools provide a unique way to communicate and transmit our faith to the next generation of leaders in a world that so clearly needs a moral compass. I respectfully ask for your help in supporting this important work.

Thank you in advance for your generosity. May God bless you.

Sincerely,

David Perda, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

Dear friends in Christ,

Why choose a Catholic School given all the choices that are available today? While we take pride in our quality academics, in developing physical and teamwork skills in sports, and in being involved in community service, one thing stands out above all else: children can encounter Christ in all aspects of a Catholic School experience. The Catholic education each child receives is rooted in an understanding of the human person as made in the image and likeness of God who is the true source of human dignity.

The mission of Catholic Schools is an integral part of the mission of the Catholic Church. In the Sacrament of Matrimony, parents vow to raise their children in the Catholic faith. There is no better opportunity to do so than in a Catholic School where teachers, staff and volunteers alike give witness to the faith every day, both in and out of the classroom.

I invite you to review this report and recognize how Catholic Schools are performing a vital service to the entire Church and how we need the support of everyone to carry on our mission. In order to share the "Good News" story of Catholic schools we rely on those of you who have received a Catholic education first-hand or have witnessed the benefits of a Catholic education in the graduates you have come to know. We owe it to future generations to be able to encounter Christ in the classroom. Thank you for prayerfully considering how you can be part of this commitment.

With every prayerful best wish, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus  
Bishop of Worcester

## HOW YOU CAN RESPOND:

**Online:** [schools.worcesterdiocese.org](http://schools.worcesterdiocese.org)

**Or:** the second collection in your parish or make a donation directly to the Catholic school of your choice.

## CATHOLIC SCHOOL FACTS

**AVERAGE CLASS SIZE**  
Elementary and Middle School:

**18.6** STUDENTS

High School:

**15.9** STUDENTS

**Daily Attendance Rate:**

**96.2%**

High School  
Graduation Rate:

**99.8%**

High School  
Graduates Attending  
4-year College:

**94.5%**

# ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

*“They adapt to each child’s individual needs and learning styles. Teachers and staff truly care about each child.”*

*– Parent, St. Mary’s Schools, Worcester*



Catholic Schools have always excelled at providing high-quality academics and have some of the highest post-graduation rates of any schools.



# EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

*“The music and theater programs are phenomenal.”*

*– Parent, Holy Name Jr./Sr. High School, Worcester*



Education extends beyond the classroom with the opportunity to engage in a variety of sports as well as theatrical and musical productions, clubs and social activities.



## More than 8 out of 10 Parents Responded:

- My child’s teacher encourages my child to do his/her best work.
- I am happy my child is enrolled at this school

- My child has sufficient opportunities to participate in educational, social and recreational activities with grade level peers while at school.
- The learning environment fosters self-discipline so that students can become more independent learners.

- Students are encouraged through all aspects of their school experience to develop a closer relationship with Jesus Christ
- The school community lives the Gospel message through service to the poor and those in need.

# 2017 Catholic Schools Appeal (\$118,943.80)

School, Town/City	Distribution
All Saints Academy, Webster	\$2,382.00
Assumption School, Millbury	\$1,059.00
Holy Family Academy, Gardner	\$869.00
Holy Name Jr./Sr. High, Worcester	\$2,648.00
Our Lady of the Angels School, Worcester	\$3,384.00
Our Lady of the Valley Regional School, Uxbridge	\$5,609.50
St. Aloysius Catholic School, Gilbertville	\$1,378.00
St. Anna Catholic School, Leominster	\$21,962.00
St. Bernard's Elementary School, Fitchburg	\$2,192.00
St. Bernard's Central Catholic High School, Fitchburg	\$580.00
St. Bernadette School, Northborough	\$5,001.00
St. Joseph School, Webster	\$2,648.00
St. Leo School, Leominster	\$2,906.00
St. Mary School, Shrewsbury	\$3,671.00
St. Mary's Schools, Worcester	4,627.00
St. Peter Central Catholic Elementary School, Worcester	\$6,237.00
St. Peter-Marian Jr./Sr. High School, Worcester	\$315.00
St. Stephen School, Worcester	\$4,193.00
Trinity Catholic Academy, Southbridge	\$4,646.00
Venerini Academy, Worcester	\$35.00
Staff faith formation, curriculum and professional development	\$33,858.44
Other: Cost of promotional material production and postage	\$8,742.86



Diocese of Worcester  
Catholic Schools Office  
49 Elm Street  
Worcester, MA 01609

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## SERVING OTHERS

Catholic Schools help students to identify their role in the greater community, living the words of Dorothy Day, Servant of God, that we love God by serving others.

*"They teach my son to respect himself and others and they expect him to do his best all of the time...they teach him how to be compassionate towards others."*

*— Parent, St. Peter-Marian Jr./Sr. High School, Worcester*