FROM THE BISHOP

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

May the grace and peace of God our Father be with you always. We are pleased to present this Annual Report from our Office for Catholic Schools. It is only right that you should know of the good things that we are able to do in our schools and parishes, as well as the challenges and opportunities that come our way.

We exist as a Church to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ. We receive this mandate from the Lord himself at the end of the Gospel of Matthew: “Go therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit” (Mt 28:19). Each of us, according to our vocation, answers this call in various ways every day. Parents are the first educators of their children in the ways of the Faith. Teachers and administrators in our schools are privileged to assist the parents in the formation and education of our students. Priests, deacons, and parish ministers proclaim the Truth in liturgy, homilies, and in the service they provide to our brothers and sisters. Grandparents and those who are retired assist significantly through their prayers, volunteer hours, and their good example.

Please keep our schools and our whole diocese in your prayers. Join us in celebrating the good things that God is doing in our community, and help us to respond even more generously to God’s call to be disciples of the Lord and teachers of the Gospel.

In Christ’s Peace,

Bishop William A. Wack, CSC
Dear friends of the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee,

It is a great honor to serve you as Superintendent of Catholic Schools. I am constantly amazed by the leadership, creativity, and diligence of our pastors, principals, faculty, and staff. They make it their mission to instill virtues into our students while preparing them to grow academically, socially, physically, and—most importantly—in their faith.

I am excited to share with you this Annual Report, highlighting the 2017-18 school year. In our Catholic schools, we strive to prepare our students for success in this life and the next, integrating our Catholic Faith into all we do, from the classroom to the playing field. We educate in a way that allows each child to grow to his or her potential in a safe environment where the focus is not just on success in life, but with the goal of Heaven.

As we strive for excellence in our Catholic schools, we maintain the focus that our schools are a ministry of the diocese and our parishes, serving as a primary evangelization tool of the church, whose most important job is to raise saints.

Please enjoy this summary of our year and feel free to learn more about our schools through their websites and campus events.

Yours in Christ,

Mike Juhas, Superintendent
Began the process of revamping our educational standards to increase rigor and incorporate the Catholic Faith across the curriculum

Our diocese began a multi-year process of what we call Catholic Immersion, integrating the Catholic Faith into our major subjects of English, math, science and social studies. With the help of the Cardinal Newman Society’s K-12 division, we’ve begun taking their Catholic standards for content and disposition and weaving them into our current curriculum and teaching. Some of our schools have also worked closely with the Institute for Catholic Liberal Education on instructional pedagogy. The goal is to teach with a Catholic worldview and inspire truth, beauty, and goodness while continuing to prepare our students for success at their next level of education through our rigorous academics.

Virtues in Practice program implemented for grades K-8 in our schools, which teaches a virtue of the month and saint of the month

In 2017-18, our schools were trained in the Virtues in Practice program by the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia Congregation. This program, which offers teaching and parent materials, is structured in a nine year spiraling curriculum offering a virtue of the month and corresponding saint of the month. Virtues in Practice inspires our students to live holy lives and learn through positive examples provided by the saints.
The Office for Catholic Schools hosted a Curriculum Day for our teachers at St. Paul Catholic School in January 2018. Dr. Tammy Pawloski spoke on strategies for teaching and forming students in poverty. Apple Education presented on educational technology strategies. Teachers also gathered in grade/subject level teams for learning and discussion. Principals and teachers have the opportunity for continued discussion in online professional learning communities through Ring Central’s Glip software.

**Catechetical certification program fully implemented with all PK-12 teachers**

The Office for Catholic Schools has partnered with My Catholic Faith Delivered to provide a catechetical certification program for all teachers, regardless of their faith and subject taught. Teachers take six on-demand courses over a three year period to become certified, then take one class per year as continuing education. This allows for common formation of all our teachers. They also do a full-day faculty retreat per year through their school as part of the program.

**Catholic Identity Benchmarks**

Working closely with Bishop Wack, the Office for Catholic Schools finalized in 2017-18 a set of benchmarks for Catholic Identity in our Catholic Schools, which will be fully implemented in the 2018-19 school year.
WHY A CATHOLIC EDUCATION?
**Virtues Based Formation**

Our whole educational program is designed to provide students with a Catholic worldview and Gospel values. Students learn virtuous behavior, how to share their faith with others, and are given opportunities to put into practice the Works of Mercy.

**Academic Excellence**

Our students progress through a rigorous academic program that prepares them for this life and the next. Test scores show students who spent consecutive years in our Catholic schools progress beyond their counterparts in public education.

**Safe and Supportive Environment**

Our schools make safety a top priority and support our students in challenging moments. We teach them empathy toward others, problem solving skills, and perseverance so they can support each other, adopt a growth mindset, and overcome adversity.
Across the country, demand continues to rise for Catholic early learning. Our diocese experiences this same level of demand, more than we can accommodate at this time.

It’s always exciting when our system of diocesan schools expands to serve more communities. Holy Spirit Parish in Perdido heard from its community and decided to build a Catholic early learning center, which opened in the Fall of 2018. Fr. Tom Collins led the project and conducted a capital campaign, formed an advisory council, and hired its first director, Amanda Jansen.

This new center accommodates children from birth through age three, with the plan that students will then matriculate to VPK programs at one of our Pensacola Catholic schools.

Escambia County
1 Holy Spirit Child Development Academy
2 Little Flower Catholic School
3 Pensacola Catholic High School
4 Sacred Heart Cathedral School
5 St. Ann Discovery School
6 St. John the Evangelist Catholic School, Pensacola
11 St. Paul Catholic School
Okaloosa County
10 St. Mary Catholic School

Walton County
12 St. Rita Pre-School Program

Bay County
6 St. Bernadette Child Development Academy
9 St. John the Evangelist Catholic School, Panama City

Leon County
7 St. John Paul II Catholic High School
13 Trinity Catholic School
Our Catholic schools serve a diverse community of learners from varying backgrounds, always with the end goal of forming future saints. We seek to help each child achieve his or her full potential. Our schools and early learning centers serve students from infants through twelfth grade. Students are provided with a safe and loving environment that supports them to become the best versions of themselves, growing physically, intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually. As one of the largest ministries of our diocese, schools work closely with the Bishop and pastors to support parents and guardians in the formation of their children, the next generation of the Church.

PK-12 enrollment has increased for the sixth consecutive year.
Serving All God’s Children with Joy

The Morning Star program was established in Florida to provide Catholic education to children with special learning needs. The Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee offers a Morning Star program at Sacred Heart Cathedral School and at St. John the Evangelist Catholic School in Pensacola. The goal of these programs is to educate students with varying special needs while providing them with an authentic Catholic school experience. Morning Star students have individualized plans while being afforded the opportunity to take general education classes where appropriate.
ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

Our Catholic schools teach a rigorous curriculum, building from fundamental skills, including critical thinking, writing, and advanced use of technology. An important part of our academic program is the integration of the Faith into all subjects, which we call Christ across the Curriculum. Over the past year, teachers began to integrate the Faith into our curriculum with supplementary Catholic curriculum standards. We seek for students to see the truth, beauty, and goodness in what they are learning.

Our students consistently outperform the national average on standardized testing, and this past year’s high school graduates collectively earned eight figures in scholarship money to colleges. Elementary students take the IOWA assessments, while high school students take the ACT and SAT. The graphs show the aggregate performance of our students by grade according to grade equivalent, which describes academic performance in terms of grade level and month. For example, if a third grade student taking the IOWA at the ¾ point of their school year scores a 4.2 on the third grade reading test, this means the student scored as well as a fourth grade student in the second month of the school year if given the same third grade reading test.
8TH GRADE CLASS OF 2018 PERFORMANCE OVER TIME

Academic performance on the IOWA test over the past five years for students who spent grades K-8 in our Catholic schools:

- Students who spent five consecutive years in our Catholic Schools
- National Average

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<tr>
<th>YEAR &amp; GRADE LEVEL</th>
<th>NATIONAL</th>
<th>STATE</th>
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<td>5th(2015)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4th(2014)</td>
<td>10.8</td>
<td>10.8</td>
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100% high school graduation rate

BRIGHT FUTURES SCHOLARSHIPS

Forty-five percent of eligible graduates of our diocesan high schools were awarded Bright Futures Scholarships, compared to the state average over the past four years of twenty-one percent.

CLASS OF 2018 AVERAGE SAT

<table>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>1068</td>
<td>1014</td>
<td>1155</td>
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CLASS OF 2018 AVERAGE ACT

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20.8</td>
<td>19.9</td>
<td>24.3</td>
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</table>

The Class of 2018 completed 26,637 service hours during their years in our Catholic high schools.

CLASS OF 2018 AVERAGE ACT

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CLASS OF 2018 AVERAGE SAT

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<th>STATE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>45%</td>
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OFFICE FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
Our Catholic schools and early learning centers practice fiscal responsibility, working closely with their pastors, advisory councils, and the diocesan pastoral center. We always seek to be good stewards of our funding, using it to provide a quality educational experience for our students, centered in Christ. In addition to tuition, our schools receive support through fundraisers and annual fund drives. It is through this additional support that we are able to keep tuition as low as possible for families.

Our families are encouraged to apply for financial aid through the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship program. Families can also apply for grants from their school or parish where applicable.

We always seek to be good stewards of our funding, using it to provide a quality educational experience for our students, centered in Christ.
SUPPORTING CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

PRAYING

There are many ways you can make a difference and support the efforts of Catholic education in our diocese. Lifting up our school families and staffs in prayer is essential to our continued success. Our Diocesan Schools Advisory Council founded intercessory prayer teams for each school; contact your school’s principal to learn more.

GIVING

In order to provide Catholic education to as many families as possible, our tuition is lower than the cost to educate a child, which creates a “tuition gap.” Partnering with a Catholic school through its annual fund drive, tuition assistance fund, or through bequests are tangible ways to support the programs of the school or to help a child who may not qualify for a full scholarship and needs a little help for the dream of attending a Catholic school to become a reality.

VOLUNTEERING

Volunteering at a Catholic school is yet another way to make a difference in the lives of our students. If you would like more information about a Catholic school in our diocese, please feel welcome to reach out and call the school to learn more or schedule a visit.

Scholarship Opportunities

There are four programs in the state of Florida which help make Catholic education affordable for a greater number of families.

Scan the QR code or go to ptdiocese.org/scholarships to learn more.

For students who do not qualify for one of the full tuition scholarships, each school offers a limited amount of need-based financial aid grants. Please contact your school’s principal to learn more.
**Florida Tax Credit (FTC) Scholarship**

Based on household size and income, the FTC Scholarship allows qualifying families to attend the private school of their choice through full and partial scholarships. See the chart below.

**Gardiner Scholarship**

Based on qualifying diagnoses, students with certain special needs can be eligible for an average of $10,000 in scholarship funds each year to cover approved education-related expenses including private school tuition, tutoring, therapy and educational technology.

**McKay Scholarship**

Based on IEP or 504 Accommodation Plan; students with specific special needs who have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or 504 Accommodation and have previously attended a public school can be eligible to attend the private school of their choice with a scholarship up to full tuition.

**Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK)**

A state-funded program enabling every 4-year-old in Florida to attend the Pre-K of his or her choice, free of charge, to build a strong foundation, ensuring their kindergarten readiness.

### Household Size Monthly Income Yearly Income

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<th>Household Size</th>
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</table>

**PROMOTING**

Word of mouth is the most powerful form of marketing a school could have. Sharing the good news of Catholic education is another powerful way to make a difference. Encouraging families and friends to explore the possibility of Catholic education for their child could change a life forever.
Accolades in Accreditation

Accreditation plays a vital role in validating the excellence of our Catholic schools. Our elementary schools are accredited through the Florida Catholic Conference, which uses the National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Schools as its guiding principles. Our high schools are accredited through AdvancED, a national accrediting agency. Our early learning centers are licensed through the Florida Department of Children and Families and are seeking accreditation from the Florida Catholic Conference in 2018-19.

Much preparation goes into an accreditation self-study and visit, as stakeholders team with staff to evaluate and seek avenues for continuous improvement. The Office for Catholic Schools supports these efforts, which culminate in a visiting team from the outside inspecting all aspects of the school.

Trinity Catholic School was granted re-accreditation by the Florida Catholic Conference during the 2017-18 school year. Trinity’s faculty and staff were praised in many areas, including high achievement in academic testing and reporting of testing to the community, school security and student safety measures, and its focus on providing for those in need through student collections and organized prayer support through student groups.
The Catholic Youth Sports League is a faith-based athletic venture of the Office for Catholic Schools that serves Pensacola students from our Catholic schools and other non-public schools in grades 3-8. CYSL offers basketball, cheerleading, flag football, tackle football, track & field, and volleyball. CYSL has begun to partner with the Office of Mission and Evangelization on adopting The University of Notre Dame’s Play Like a Champion Today program in order to promote sportsmanship for coaches, student-athletes, and parents.