



A message to the faithful of the archdiocese from Archbishop Michael Jackels

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**24 January 2019, 2:27 PM**

**Celebrating Catholic Schools Week**

One of the mission priorities for the Archdiocese of Dubuque is to strengthen programs for on-going education in the Catholic Faith.

Of all Church ministries, teaching the Catholic Faith is the most important because we can't love what we don't know, and we can't know unless someone teaches us.

Because all Church ministries are inspired by love of God, it can be said that all ministry rises or falls on the strength of our efforts to educate and form people in our Catholic Faith.

With regard to school-age children, their parents are the first and best teachers of how to live as a follower of Jesus.

And if parents look to the Church for help in that responsibility, a Catholic school is the best we can offer.

But even the best Catholic school can't take the place of parents. If the faith is not taught and lived at home, the effect of a Catholic school is greatly handicapped.

All of us, whether we have school-age children or not, should be concerned that Catholic schools are high quality and financially accessible. Why? Because they are the future leaders, and if we work at making them better people, then there is a greater chance they will make the world a better place.

God reward all who are partners to continue the mission of Jesus in the ministries of the Church, especially by strengthening programs for on-going education in the Catholic Faith!

Michael Jackels

Archbishop of Dubuque

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