



January 31, 2021

Dear Catholic Parishioners in Winona,

Each year we celebrate the gift that Catholic Schools are to our community and our nation. This year, we realize and celebrate how blessed our Winona Catholic community is and we celebrate in a special way. Catholic education in Winona is evolving, and the future has never been brighter. Starting July 1, 2021, Cotter Schools is expanding to offer educational opportunities from early childhood to 12th grade, advancing a mission that began more than 110 years ago. By bringing our schools and students together in a unified system, Cotter Schools can more effectively serve as a steward for sustainable, affordable Catholic education now and into the future. For more information on the shared mission and vision of our Winona Catholic schools see www.cotterschools.org/k12.

Catholic Schools Week provides us the opportunity to acknowledge and give thanks for the many gifts that come to us as a result of our schools. First, we have the witness of parents and families choosing Catholic schools because faith and academic excellence are a priority for them. Second, we have graduates of our schools doing amazing things, now and in the future, with the education they have received. Our alums are world-class professionals, dedicated employees, committed parents, and valued volunteers in their communities and beyond. Third, we have incredibly generous benefactors who sustain our growth and enable our future: the Catholic parishes of Winona, parents, individual families, and foundations.

Winona is an extremely blessed community. Catholic education has been a part of the fabric of this city for over 110 years. Every business, school, factory, and institution has employees, managers, and owners who received their education in the Catholic system. We believe Winona is a better community because of our graduates! We want to make sure that, in the future, our community and others like ours continue to have citizens, employees, parents, and neighbors who have come from our Catholic schools and who live their lives recognizing the dignity and worth of every individual, irrespective of race, creed, or nationality. We are engaged in a sacred mission.

Our Catholic schools are academically excellent, faith-filled, and affordable. We provide education with character! Come and join us!

With gratitude,

Sister Judy
Sister Judith Schaefer, OP
President, Cotter Schools

Pat Bowlin
Mr. Pat Bowlin
Principal, Winona Area Catholic Schools