



THE DIOCESE OF KALAMAZOO

Office of the Bishop

January 31, 2021

Dear Catholic School Parents,

What a different world we are in today than when I wrote to you during last year's *Catholic Schools Week*. It was only a couple of months after that letter when our schools were shut down to in-person learning. I am proud to say our Catholic schools in the Diocese of Kalamazoo took steps immediately to ensure our students' learning would continue. Our educators took mere days to regroup and develop a plan to get remote learning started immediately so that our students didn't experience a gap in their education. Likewise, your role to ensure the success of virtual learning was immeasurable. Please know of my admiration for how well you, as parents, face the special challenges in today's world.

This year's *Catholic Schools' Week* theme, "*Catholic Schools: Faith. Excellence. Service*", reminds us that even in the uncertainty of today's world, our goal remains the same – treating your children with respect for their whole person and always striving to do our best to grow in the three pillars of our Catholic education: *faith, academic excellence* and *service*. Our schools have gone above and beyond, working late to help clean and sanitize classrooms, taking on new methods of teaching, adapting to the spiritual and emotional needs of students during the current anxieties while still maintaining a commitment to academic excellence. With Christ at the center of our education, our teachers serve your families as they would serve their own. Our school communities are an extension of your family and it remains a priority to maintain that connection.

While I have missed greatly the school visits and Masses I usually celebrate each year, I am proud to see all of the innovative and student-centered ways our staff has adapted to serve your children as whole persons - spiritually, mentally and physically - providing in-person instruction for those who want it while still providing a sense of community and continuity for those families who feel more comfortable using virtual education during this trying time.

Thank you for choosing Catholic school education and for being a part of our Catholic School community where we're committed to educating your child in mind, body and spirit.

Assuring you of my heartfelt prayers for you and your families, and humbly asking for your prayers for me and our Diocese, I remain

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Paul J. Bradley
Bishop of Kalamazoo