

Welcome From the President

"I [Paul] planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth" (1 Cor. 3: 6-8)

As it normally does, this school year is progressing very quickly. It seems like we just celebrated Advent, Christmas, and Catholic Schools Week. Schools have rhythms and cycles, just like nature and the liturgical year. There are times for rejoicing after a successful gala, capital campaign, or other accomplishments. There are times for planting, like searching for teachers, discussing strategic initiatives, or conducting open houses. There are times for watering, like Catholic Schools Week, field days, or graduations. And times to rest, like Easter break and summer. At the end of the day, it is the Lord alone who makes us grow.

Lent is quickly approaching, the springtime in our Church when we prepare our hearts to celebrate Jesus Christ conquering sin and death. In our schools, the students should feel Lent as we tend to the ground for the seeds of faith to be planted. They should feel Easter when it comes, the fruits that the Lord lets grow in us. There should be a sense of the season of preparation and longing. During the Easter Season, we must remember to truly celebrate, allowing the joy of the Resurrection to radiate in everything we do.

For my part, I have had the tremendous blessing at the beginning of this calendar year to plant and water in small ways. I have worked with several schools providing retreats, mentoring, helping schools build enrollment management programs, and supporting schools in identifying their next leader. Each school has its needs, its own characteristics, and its own participation in advancing the evangelizing mission of the Church. These schools are also in various stages of planting and watering. Some schools are planning, some preparing for a new season with a new leader, and some, by the grace of God, are growing. We have been blessed to work with each of these schools where they are.

We continue to plant and water as a company with a desire to grow and continue building according to the Holy Will of God, so that He, through our work, can help more schools become centers of evangelization. Please consider how you can support us in this effort, whether it is your prayers, your financial support, or by connecting us with Catholic schools looking to embrace their mission.



In Christ through Mary,



Join Us for a Free Webinar on March 10!

MISSION
DRIVEN
CATHOLIC

**WEBINAR:
EXECUTIVE &
INSTRUCTIONAL
COACHING**

5 Ways Coaching Fosters
Excellence in Catholic Schools

**MONDAY
MARCH 10TH**

**TIME
1 PM (EST)**

**COST
FREE**

REGISTER TODAY!

Dr. Daniel Baillargeon
President and Founder
Mission Driven Catholic



Sandra Drummey, Ed.D.
Senior Vice President for
Leader & Teacher Development
ADAC



Meet us online on Monday, March 10, at 1 p.m. Eastern time for a no-cost webinar on executive and instructional coaching. Dr. Sandra Drummey, the Senior Vice President for Leader and Teacher Development at ADAC, will join our founder and president Dr. Daniel Baillargeon to discuss five ways coaching fosters excellence in Catholic Schools.

Sandi is a lifelong special education practitioner who has served as a teacher, vice-principal, principal, administrator, and Assistant Superintendent of the Diocese of Fall River. She holds a bachelor's degree from Suffolk University and both a master's and doctoral degree from Boston College.

Register for the event on [LinkedIn](#) or [Facebook](#), or just join us on [Zoom](#) for a helpful discussion on mentoring in Catholic educational leadership.

Recent Events

Tax-Exempt Status

After over a year of waiting, Mission Driven Catholic has finally received our official tax-exempt status from the IRS! While we have been a nonprofit since January 1, 2024, since we are now classified as a public charity, our donors are able to make tax-exempt gifts.

Webinar for Catholic Schools Week

On January 13, Mission Driven Catholic held our second free webinar event. Over 35 participants attended to hear Dr. Brett Salkeld of [Making Every Class Catholic](#) and Dr. Baillargeon discuss integrating Catholic culture into our schools. If you missed it, you can still [listen to the recording](#).

Guest Podcast Episode



Dr. Baillargeon joined John Barreto on February 5 for Studio 3:16's podcast, Nets in the Water. They spoke about how Catholic schools can strengthen their mission and culture and shared practical ways to help schools live out their mission and foster authentic faith formation. You

can [check out this podcast and other guest episodes with Dr. Baillargeon on the Mission Driven Catholic website](#).

Diocese of Venice Leadership Retreat

Mission Driven Catholic was happy to be present to the principals of the Catholic schools of the Diocese of Venice, FL, on February 6 and 7 during their annual Leadership Retreat. Dr. Baillargeon was able to reconnect in person with Fr. John Belmonte, S.J., the Superintendent of the Diocese of Venice and a Mission Driven Catholic board member.



Theology of Gift Conference

Megan Baillargeon (Executive Vice-President), Kathy McCabe (COO), and Ashley Gregory (Director of Donor and Client Relations) attended the Theology of Gift Conference in Tempe, AZ, on February 16-19 to learn more about the spirituality behind and best practices for Catholic philanthropy. This conference was provided by the Catholic Institute for Philanthropy of the University of Mary. We look forward to implementing all we learned as we continue to search for large donors to support our work in revitalizing Catholic schools.



Meet Our Enrollment Management Specialist

The Mission Driven Catholic team is growing! We are thrilled to announce that Cara Grasso is our new Enrollment Management Specialist. Cara grew up in a small farm town in CT, raised by an Italian immigrant family who taught



her the importance of faith and community. She found her vocation in Catholic education as Admissions Director at St. Mary's High School in Westfield, MA. Now living in Albany, NY, with her husband, John, Cara enjoys hiking, cooking, traveling, and cherishing time with her family.

And more...

2025 has been busy so far! We've recently completed a leadership search in Alaska, are wrapping up two more in North Carolina and Maryland, and are beginning other projects. We finished assisting the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee with the resource development of their priest handbook, and we began a second virtual formation cohort for Catholic school principals. If you know of a Catholic school or diocese that could use our help, please [reach out to us](#)!

What We Do

At Mission Driven Catholic, we help Catholic school communities **encounter** Christ. We recruit, form, and equip Catholic school leaders to **transform** their communities. We continue to **support** them to pursue the evangelizing mission of the Church. Our services include:

- Executive mentoring for Catholic school leaders
- Leadership searches and candidate reviews
- Professional development and public speaking
- Retreats
- Strategic planning, school board development, and curriculum and Catholic identity reviews
- Strategic enrollment management



Find the Right Leader for Your Schools

Leadership searches are one of Mission Driven Catholic's primary services because the leader of a Catholic school is in a crucial position to support the faith formation of its students and families.

In every [leadership search](#), our objectives are to create an understanding of the importance of the leadership role in advancing the school's mission, recruit a leader who can advance the unique charism of the school, and create a culture of support in the community to assist the new leader in advancing the school.

To do this, we divide the search into two stages: Stage one includes in-person and virtual meetings, data gathering and analysis, and development of resources. Stage two includes developing search and interview protocols, gathering candidates, assisting with interviews, and making a recommendation for the final hire.

Our goal is never just to find someone who can do the job, but instead to find the best person for each school's particular situation.

A Successful School Starts With Students

To be the center of evangelization in its community that it should be, a Catholic school first needs students. That's why Mission Driven Catholic provides a [comprehensive enrollment management program](#) specifically designed to help Catholic schools attract and retain students by communicating effectively with prospective families and all members of the community.

In this program, we first assess the health of current enrollment efforts and then guide the school through growing its audience by adopting user-friendly marketing strategies and implementing tools and systems to improve all aspects of school outreach. By using this fully prepared system, a school will attain greater awareness of their process and gain the tools to increase enrollment and revenue. We will walk with you in improving and increasing your outreach.

With a full student roster, your Catholic school will have greater resources and, most importantly, a greater ability to minister to students and their families.

All Leaders Deserve Support

Leadership roles are challenging, and there are a myriad of decisions that Catholic school leaders face every day. Each of those decisions need to be made with the unique mission of the school and the overall mission of Catholic education in mind.

As an expert in Catholic education and with over 25 years of experience, Dr. Daniel Baillargeon provides [one-on-one mentoring](#) for both new and experienced Catholic principals to guide them through mission-driven decision making and the four critical areas of Catholic school leadership: instructional, organizational, entrepreneurial, and spiritual leadership.

Mentored principals not only receive instruction, but also have continued access to Dr. Baillargeon's support in their decision-making process and as they work toward achieving set goals.

Consider getting the support you or your school leader needs by reaching out to us to learn more about our principal mentoring program or our [virtual formation program](#) for Catholic school principals.

Upcoming Events

Find Mission Driven Catholic at these upcoming conferences and missions – if you're in the area, stop by to chat with us!

- Parish mission at St. Elizabeth in Ludlow, MA, on March 24–26
- Parish missions at St. Joseph in Lucinda, PA, St. Mary in Crown, PA, and St. Michael in Fryburg, PA, on April 1–3
- Five Marks Fridays – Mission Driven Catholic is hosting professional development for the education students at Franciscan University of Steubenville and the local Catholic school teachers on Fridays during Lent, discussing the five marks for effective Catholic schools
- NCEA 2025: Be the Light Conference in Orlando, FL, on April 22–24
- ICLE 13th Annual National Conference on July 15–18 in Lincoln, Nebraska

Donate to Mission Driven Catholic

Many of the schools we work with cannot afford the comprehensive services we provide. Mission Driven Catholic relies on generous donations to help us succeed in our mission. Please consider supporting us with a [one-time donation](#) or a [monthly contribution](#) so we can continue our work.

Learn more on our website, or email us to find out how your philanthropy can help us revitalize Catholic schools to fully embrace their mission to become centers of evangelization for students and their families.

Please Pray for Us

While every dollar we can raise for our mission will help, your prayers will help us as much or more. Please consider including Mission Driven Catholic in your prayer intentions.

For specific intentions, we ask you to remember us on March 7 as we conduct final interviews for the leadership search at St. Thomas More Academy in Middletown, MD, and on March 11 as we conduct final interviews for the leadership search at Holy Trinity Middle School in Charlotte, NC.



- We discern with you.
- We pray with you.
- We accompany you.
- We stay connected to you.

The Catholic Daily Drive



The Catholic Daily Drive is a weekday, five- to seven-minute podcast where Catholic school leaders, teachers, and families can pray in community, listen to Scripture, be inspired by the Saints, and be empowered in their vocation as Catholic educators, parents, and students. Not only are we praying for you, but so are all our listeners around the country.

This podcast is not monetized; we simply want to help others pray and focus their day on Christ. Prayer and saving souls is at the heart of what we want to do at Mission Driven Catholic. If you'd like to offer a donation to help us keep producing this prayer podcast, you can do so on our website.

Each day, we pray for a different diocese and school. You can listen to the Catholic

Daily Drive on the Mission Driven Catholic [website](#), on [Spotify](#), on [Apple Podcasts](#), and on other major platforms.

Contact Us

www.missiondrivencatholic.com
office@missiondrivencatholic.com

Follow us on LinkedIn, Facebook, and Instagram!

