



DIOCESE OF SUPERIOR

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

My Dear Friends in Christ:

Celebrate Catholic Schools Week (January 29 - February 4, 2023) has been an annual celebration of what makes Catholic education great! Our 14 amazing Diocesan schools will be observing this week with Masses, open houses, and other activities for students, families, parishioners, and community members. It is a time to rediscover what makes a Catholic education special and pay tribute to all those who foster our schools' excellence. The Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Superior form the whole person through faith, knowledge, and community. The benefits of a Catholic school education last a lifetime. There is no better way to invest in a child's future or the future of the Catholic Church.

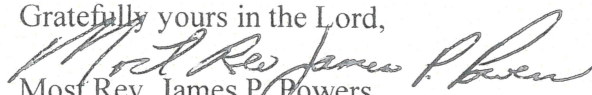
We are all challenged to help make schools available, accessible, and affordable to all Catholic parents and their children. The burden of supporting our 14 Catholic schools should not be placed exclusively on the individual parishes that have schools and on parents who pay tuition. This requires all Catholics, including those in parishes without schools, to consider their stewardship of the greater Church. Here are a just a few key reasons Catholic schools are a vital part of the teaching mission of the Church:

- Parish Engagement – Catholic School graduates are more likely to be engaged and attend Mass regularly. Those students who attend Catholic high school, college, university, or graduate school have the highest rates of Mass attendance, giving, and volunteerism.
- Sacrament of Confirmation – Catholic School graduates receive this Sacrament at a higher level than other groupings of Catholics.
- Vocations – the highest percentages of vocations to the priesthood, sisterhood, and lay ecclesial ministry come from Catholic School graduates.

For these reasons alone, every parish should support and promote a Catholic School. As we observe Catholic Schools Week, we continue the tradition of a special diocesan-wide collection that will provide an additional and immediate source of support for schools based on the number of students. Our response to this appeal is an expression of our discipleship and our unity with Catholic school communities throughout northern Wisconsin. It is my hope and prayer that each of us will participate in our Special Collection for Catholic Schools that will help ensure a vibrant Church.

Thanking you for your life of stewardship and faith, I am

Gratefully yours in the Lord,


Most Rev. James P. Powers
Bishop of Superior