



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

January 16, 2018

Catholic Schools: Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

It is with joy, enthusiasm, and purpose-driven mission, that I invite you to celebrate National Catholic Schools Week from January 28, 2018 through February 3, 2018. Together, we recognize the extraordinary contribution that our Catholic schools across Long Island make by forming young missionary disciples, on fire with love for our Lord Jesus and the mission of the Catholic Church.

At the same time, we recognize our collective responsibility towards the future of Catholic education in our Diocese. Enrollment and investment in our Catholic schools depends on the leadership of each individual Catholic. Our willingness to witness to the transformative and destiny-changing experience of Catholic education to the families we meet makes all the difference.

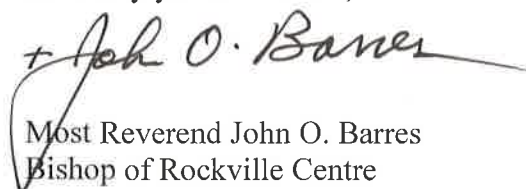
As a Diocese, we are participating in *V Encuentro*, a national effort begun by the US Bishops to unleash the leadership and evangelizing witness of the Hispanic/Latino community in the United States. The fruits of these efforts helps to open a gateway to a deeper engagement of our Hispanic/Latino community in the mission of Catholic Education.

Pope Saint John Paul II once said: "In order that the Catholic school and the Catholic teacher may truly make their irreplaceable contribution to the Church and to the world, the goal of Catholic education itself must be crystal clear. Catholic education is above all a question of communicating Christ, of helping to form Christ in the lives of others."

In Catholic Schools Week 2018, our Catholic schools recommit themselves to helping parents and extended families form successful, servant leaders who help drive *dramatic missionary growth* on Long Island and beyond.

With prayers for our shared mission and gratitude for your efforts, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Most Reverend John O. Barres
Bishop of Rockville Centre