



DIOCESE OF SUPERIOR OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

January 2017

My Dear Friends in Christ,

As I travel the Diocese, I witness first hand the enthusiasm and gratitude for our 15 Catholic Schools. Having served as pastor of parish with a school, I am proud of our magnificent students, their parents and the staff and volunteers who provide leadership and make Catholic education a vibrant part of our local faith. Catholic schools are truly worth cherishing. "Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service." is the theme for the 2017 Catholic Schools Week. The annual observance starts the last Sunday in January and runs all week from January 29 - February 4.

Each year, during Catholic Schools Week, we celebrate what makes Catholic education special by paying tribute to those who foster our schools and acknowledging the generous donors who provide sustaining support. Again we continue the tradition of a special diocesan-wide offering that will provide immediate and direct funding assistance for our schools. Although this is but one way to address challenges facing our schools, the Catholic Schools Week Collection provides an additional source of support for schools based on the number of students.

Our Catholic schools are currently in the second year of a four-year Strategic Management and Development Initiative. The purpose of this initiative is to help schools become exceptional, well-managed institutions through institutionalized best practices. Through the grant provided by Catholic Extension, Catholic School Management, Inc. is providing consultation services to help our schools strengthen their Catholic identity, define goals, improve the efficiency of school boards, enhance school image and communications, raise funds, manage enrollment, and market themselves more productively.

Catholic schools continue to be the most effective means available to the Church for the education of children and young people who are the future of the Church. They, indeed, provide early formation for many of our future seminarians, priests and religious. Let Faith, Knowledge and Service be the hallmarks by which any Catholic school can and should be compared and measured.

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

Gratefully yours in the Lord,

Most Rev. James P. Powers
Bishop of Superior

Attach this letter to the parish bulletin, or read from the pulpit. It will also be published in the Catholic Herald.