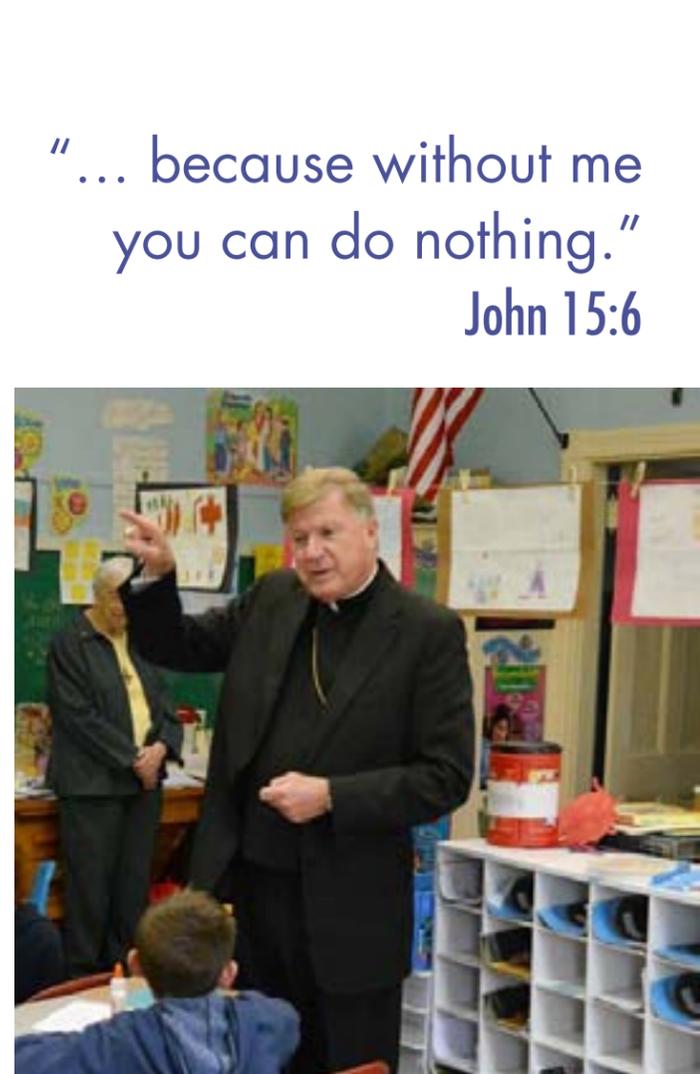




Feast of St. Blaise  
Student eucharistic ministers

# 2016-2017 Annual Report

Diocese of Worcester Catholic Schools Office



“... because without me you can do nothing.”  
John 15:6

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

What is the purpose or goal of a Catholic school? Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI succinctly answered this question when he addressed a gathering of Catholic educators during his pastoral visit to the United States in April 2008. The pontiff said, “First and foremost every Catholic institution is a place to encounter the living God who in Jesus Christ reveals his transforming love and truth.” In a Catholic school, all dimensions of education are understood and presented in light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The purpose of a Catholic school is not primarily to provide a better education than that which is offered in a public school. Everyone wants all students, whether they enroll in Catholic, private or public schools, to receive an excellent education. The goal of a Catholic school is to offer its students a different kind of education, one rooted in and imbued with perennial wisdom about the human person, a wisdom that derives from the Catholic Church’s tradition of faith and morals. A Catholic school education seeks to educate not only the mind with a love for the truth but also to touch the hearts and form the consciences of its students with a desire and commitment to pursue what is good, right and just.

The academic excellence of our Catholic schools relies on several factors. The competence and dedication of our teachers and administrators, the overwhelming majority of whom are lay people, contribute significantly to our schools’ successes. Our educators see teaching not only as a profession but as a ministry. Often at great financial sacrifice, these talented women and men commit themselves daily to helping their students grow in knowledge and virtue.

The story of the quality and success of our Catholic schools should be told often and to as many people, especially parents, who will listen. At the heart of the story is the commitment of our Catholic schools to teach as Jesus did, that is, to teach with an authority that comes from the truth about the dignity of the human person who is made in the image and likeness of God. What Pope Pius XII stated years ago about Catholic schools is as true today as it was in the past and will be in the future: “Catholic schools in the United States are the pearl of Great price.”

This 2016-2017 Catholic Schools Annual Report provides me with a special opportunity to express my personal gratitude to the countless numbers of parents and grandparents, students, teachers and administrators, alumni, and clergy as well as to our many benefactors who make the Catholic schools in the Diocese of Worcester true models of Faith, Academics and Service.

With every prayerful wish, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

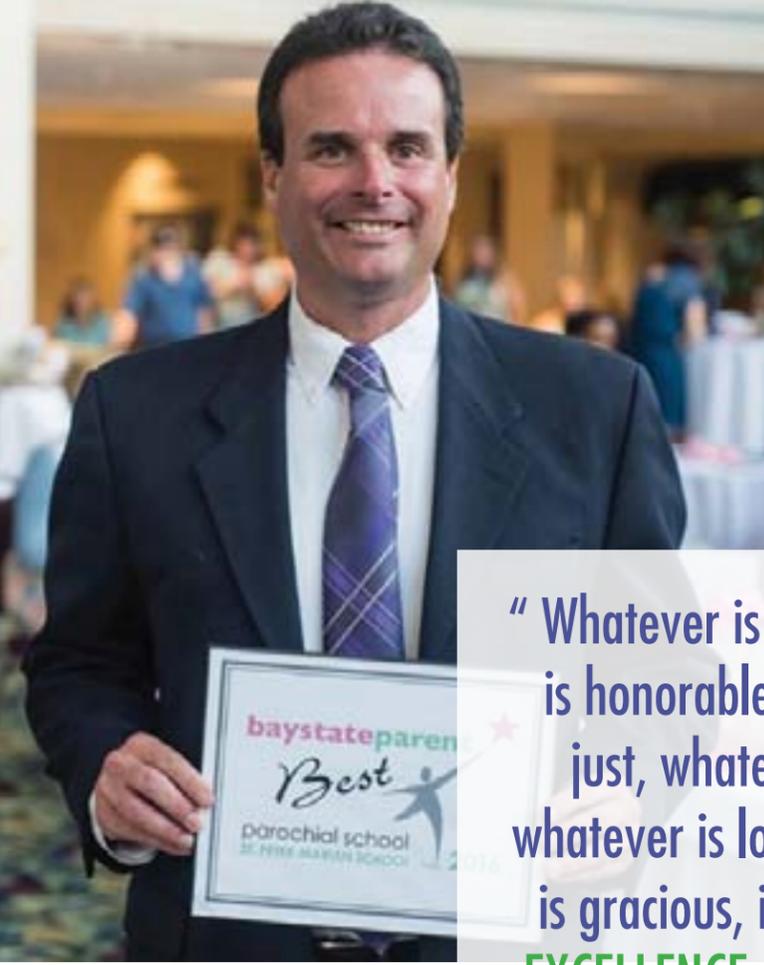
Most Reverend Robert J. McManus, S.T.D.  
Bishop of Worcester

## SPIRITUALITY

### The Catholic school difference



September 2016 | St. Aloysius and All Saints Academy opened.

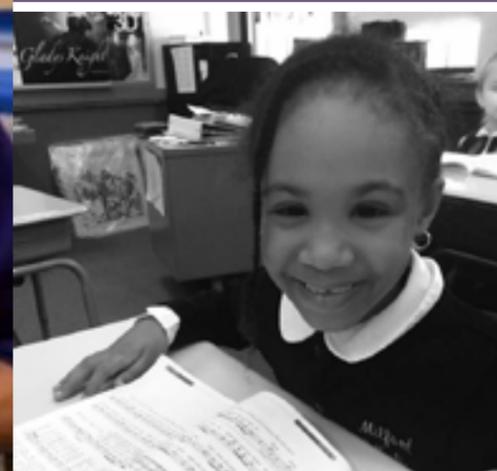
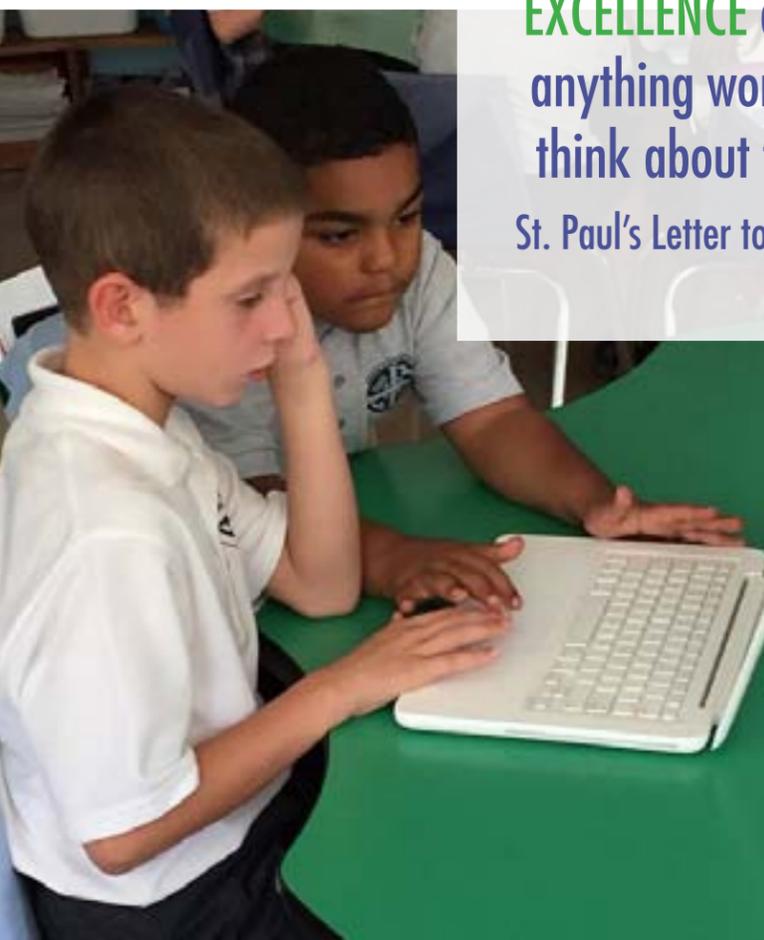


“ Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any **EXCELLENCE** and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.”

St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians 4:8

“And though your beginning was small, your latter days will be great.” Job 8:7

June 2017 | Milford Catholic and St. Anthony schools closed.



“For if what was going to fade was glorious, how much more will what endures be glorious.” 2 Corinthians 3:11



## DID YOU KNOW

It takes the generosity of many to help Catholic Schools fulfill their mission

Diocesan-wide, 1,486 students applied for tuition assistance

55% received tuition assistance

Our schools welcome children of all faiths

Student graduation and college acceptance rates exceed 98%

Catholic school teachers are licensed or in the process of obtaining licensure

Catholic schools are more successful at closing the learning gap between groups

The majority of Catholic elementary schools in addition to high schools are NEASC accredited

Service is a hallmark of Catholic schools at all grade levels

We value your support

## DIOCESAN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (\$772,046.00)

	Amount
Partners in Charity	\$350,000
Forward In Faith Endowment	\$422,046
St. Anthony Elementary School - Fitchburg	\$21,178
St. Bernard's Central Catholic HS - Fitchburg	\$54,208
St. Bernard Elementary School - Fitchburg	\$9,219
Holy Family Academy - Gardner	\$16,275
St. Anna Elementary School - Leominster	\$18,149
St. Leo Elementary School - Leominster	\$26,943
Milford Catholic Elementary School - Milford	\$13,342
Assumption Elementary School - Millbury	\$6,561
St. Bernadette Elementary School- Northborough	\$26,457
St. Mary Elementary School - Shrewsbury	\$21,118
Trinity Catholic Academy - Southbridge	\$22,352
Our Lady of the Valley Regional School - Uxbridge	\$6,160
All Saints Academy - Webster	\$25,165
St. Joseph Elementary School - Webster	\$21,213
Holy Name Central Catholic Jr./Sr. HS - Worcester	\$180,849
Our Lady of the Angels Elementary School - Worcester	\$14,420
St. Mary's Elementary School - Worcester	\$14,566
St. Mary's HS - Worcester	\$25,465
St. Peter Central Catholic Elementary School - Worcester	\$56,325
St. Peter-Marian Central Catholic Jr./Sr. HS - Worcester	\$144,342
St. Stephen Elementary School - Worcester	\$19,466
Venerini Academy - Worcester	\$28,273

## DIOCESAN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS APPEAL (\$102,208.09)

	Amount
St. Anthony Elementary School - Fitchburg	\$484.00
St. Bernard's Central Catholic HS - Fitchburg	\$100.00
St. Bernard Elementary School - Fitchburg	\$1,967.00
Holy Family Academy - Gardner	\$1,487.00
St. Aloysius - Gilbertville	\$1,631.00
St. Anna Elementary School - Leominster	\$3,633.00
St. Leo Elementary School - Leominster	\$3,230.05
Milford Catholic Elementary School - Milford	\$2,546.00
Assumption Elementary School - Millbury	\$2,310.95
St. Bernadette Elementary School- Northborough	\$5,201.00
St. Mary Elementary School - Shrewsbury	\$3,816.00
Trinity Catholic Academy - Southbridge	\$2,899.00
Our Lady of the Valley Regional School - Uxbridge	\$4,212.50
St. Joseph Elementary School - Webster	\$3,696.00
All Saints Academy - Webster	\$2,450.40
Holy Name Central Catholic Jr./Sr. HS - Worcester	\$2,753.00
Our Lady of the Angels Elementary School - Worcester	\$2,307.50
St. Mary's Elementary School - Worcester	\$3,237.00
St. Mary's HS - Worcester	\$3,237.00
St. Peter Central Catholic Elementary School - Worcester	\$4,204.00
St. Peter-Marian Central Catholic Jr./Sr. HS - Worcester	\$2,340.00
St. Stephen Elementary School - Worcester	\$4,775.00
Venerini Academy - Worcester	\$175.00
<b>OTHER:</b>	
Cost of production, public relations, and mailing	\$(10,945.64)
Staff faith formation, curriculum and professional development	\$39,515.69

# MESSAGE FROM

Superintendent of Catholic Schools

Dear Benefactors,

As the new superintendent of Catholic schools for the Diocese of Worcester, I want to thank you for your long-standing support of our schools. So much of what we can provide for our students depends on your financial contributions and prayers. Over the last several weeks, I have engaged in dialogue at every level of our school system – students, parents, teachers, administrators, clergy, alumni – as well as external partners and supporters. One thing that I have learned thus far is clear: there is tremendous passion, excitement, and support in the community for our Catholic schools. And there is good reason for that.

Decades of educational research have demonstrated the effectiveness of Catholic schools in providing exceptional and well-rounded educational experiences – those that not only focus on academic learning but also provide for spiritual development, civic engagement and service to others. Our educators, administrators and staff are committed to ensuring that all schools are academically excellent and provide environments that are conducive to the high quality education for which Catholic schools are known: classroom settings where there are high expectations for students; where there is order and regular evaluation of student progress; where students take pride in their achievements and their schools.

Our Catholic faith is central to everything we do. Our students and graduates are known for their character, integrity, self-discipline, and service to others.

Your support is more important now than ever. Increasingly, parents are finding it difficult to make the financial commitment necessary to send their children to Catholic schools, and tuition costs are rising. In the 2016-17 school year, we provided Diocesan tuition assistance to 817 students because of contributions like yours. Still, the need is great, and we could not help enough families. If the Diocese were able to provide additional financial assistance for tuition to families, we would expect to see significant enrollment increases. So please be as generous as you can with your contribution.

I ask you to prayerfully consider this request. Every contribution – no matter the size – makes a difference because each one fundamentally represents your belief and the need for our Catholic schools. With your support and God's blessing, we can ensure that our Catholic schools will continue to thrive for future generations of young people.

Sincerely,

David Perda, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools





**Diocese of Worcester  
Catholic Schools Office**

49 Elm Street, Worcester, MA 01609  
www.worcesterdiocese.org/schools

Presorted  
First Class Mail  
US Postage Paid  
Worcester, MA  
Permit No 552

**SAVING WORCESTER COUNTY Taxpayers' dollars**

Savings from students choosing Catholic schools

Town/City	Total Students	Cost per student	Savings from students choosing Catholic schools
Fitchburg	347	\$13,783.33	\$4,782,815.51
Gardner	109	\$12,241.87	\$1,334,363.83
Leominster	396	\$13,305.19	\$5,268,855.24
Milford	96	\$13,339.70	\$1,280,611.20
Millbury	100	\$14,989.37	\$1,498,937.00
Northborough	144	\$14,848.50	\$2,138,184.00
Shrewsbury	537	\$13,147.35	\$7,060,126.95
Southbridge	124	\$13,702.78	\$1,699,144.72
Uxbridge	107	\$12,755.44	\$1,364,832.08
Webster	300	\$13,976.95	\$4,193,085.00
Worcester	1755	\$13,901.25	\$24,396,693.75
*Other	2445	\$13,636.62	\$33,341,535.90
<b>Total Annual Taxpayers' Savings</b>			<b>\$88,359,185.18</b>

