



DIOCESE OF METUCHEN

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OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

January 12, 2019

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

A new year has begun, one of spiritual awakening in preparation of the consecration of our diocese to Jesus through the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe. A time when we prayerfully work toward a renewed commitment to living the Gospel message to the full.

One beautiful example of the Gospel message being lived to its fullest may be seen in the work of our Catholic schools. I have been fortunate to have visited with the students, faculty and staff in each of them. They are a demonstration of God's kingdom at work - places where the Gospel is preached, missionary disciples are formed, community is built and confidence in the blessing of God's mercy and justice is instilled in our youth - all while they continue to outperform schools in the public and private sector in terms of test scores, high school graduation rates, and college attendance.

Next Sunday our parishes will offer a special collection that supports the Foundation for Catholic Education's annual scholarship program. This program provides need-based grants to children attending a Catholic elementary or high school in our Diocese. Your generous response last year sent over 100 children to school in September!

I have seen first-hand the impact of your purpose-filled gift, the joy of the children learning in a nurturing and challenging environment, and the great promise of those who will be graduating this June. What a beautiful way to make a difference in so many young lives. Thank you!

You, and others inspired by you, have the chance to change a child's life forever by giving them the gift of a Catholic school education. Please be as generous as your means allow.

With renewed best wishes, I remain

Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend James F. Checchio, JCD, MBA
Bishop of Metuchen

P.S. We celebrate the ministry of Catholic Education during Catholic Schools Week, which runs from January 27 - February 2, 2019. If you are interested in giving your children or grandchildren the advantage of a great Catholic education, please visit <https://diometuchen.org/csw>.