



May 21, 2015

Dear Catholic School Families,

I would like to offer you my blessings as you embark upon the busyness and excitement of the end of the school year. This is a time of great transition at our Catholic schools, as students graduate from one grade level to the next, and summer programs begin, as well as planning for the school year ahead.

As you may have heard, for the archdiocesan Office of Catholic Schools, this is also a time of transition. In my first full school year as Vicar for Catholic Education, I have visited many Catholic schools—and look forward to visiting many more in the coming year. During these visits, I have seen exceptional academics, service and dedication to our Catholic faith present in classrooms and in your surrounding communities. This is the heart of Catholic education: the Catholic formation of the whole student, rooted in faith and the dignity of the human person.

To support our Catholic schools in this important mission, we saw an exciting opportunity for a change in the vision and purpose of the Office of Catholic Schools. Beginning July 1, 2015, the Office of Catholic Schools will become the **Office for the Mission of Catholic Education**. Rather than focusing on providing centralized service for our schools to address broad and diverse needs, this office will be re-orientated with a view towards strengthening our schools in their Catholic mission. We want to help our schools continue to evangelize their students with the Good News of Jesus Christ. This includes helping form the intellect through academic excellence, forming the will through Catholic morality, and forming the heart through prayer and service.

I have been meeting with a Transition Committee consisting of Catholic school leaders to ensure the needs of our Catholic schools continue to be supported, and that those services find a proper home. Once the committee's work is complete, we will be sharing this information with Catholic school leaders and families.

Additionally, I wanted to share with you an exciting development: the Catholic Schools Center of Excellence (CSCOE), a new, independent non-profit organization has been formed. The center is dedicated to providing important resources to strengthen Catholic schools. You will learn more about CSCOE and the services this organization will provide in the months ahead.

Thank you for making Catholic education a priority for your children, and for your dedication to our Catholic schools. We look forward to sharing more developments in the Office for the Mission of Catholic Education with you soon.

In Christ,

The Most Reverend Andrew H. Cozzens, S.T.D., D.D.  
Auxiliary Bishop of St. Paul and Minneapolis