



DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

Office for Communications

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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500 CATHOLIC SCHOOL EDUCATORS TO PARTICIPATE IN “BACK TO SCHOOL” KICKOFF

GRAND RAPIDS, MI, August 25, 2010 - The 2010-2011 school year for Catholic schools throughout the Diocese of Grand Rapids will officially kickoff on **Monday, August 30** when over 500 Catholic school employees and pastors will gather for the annual “Back to School Kickoff”.

The diocesan Office of Catholic Schools is hosting its annual “Back to School” kickoff celebration Monday from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Cathedral Square Center, 360 Division Avenue South in Grand Rapids.

“The kickoff is a special time when Catholic school educators gather to begin our year with worship, recommit to our mission, and focus on our vision for the future,” said Mr. David Faber, superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Grand Rapids.

The day is an occasion to celebrate Catholic education and the dedicated Catholic school pastors, faculty, and staff serving throughout the 11-county diocese. Dr. Karen Ristau, president of the National Catholic Education Association, will speak about the opportunity Catholic education provides through times of great change. Following her address, **Mass will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m.** with Bishop Walter A. Hurley presiding at the Cathedral of Saint Andrew, 265 Sheldon S.E. in Grand Rapids.

“The Back to School kick-off is an opportunity for our teachers, administrators and support staff to come together to celebrate our Catholic identity as we begin another school year. It’s also a time to renew our commitment to the mission of providing a quality Catholic education for all students,” said Ms. Lori Salva, principal of St. Paul the Apostle School in Grand Rapids.

There are over 6,000 students in the 31 Catholic schools in the Diocese of Grand Rapids. The diocese serves more than 178,000 Catholics and includes 103 parishes and missions in 11 counties.

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