



DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

Office of the Bishop

January 16, 2007

To the people of the Diocese of Grand Rapids:

My dear friends,

Sunday, January 28 marks the beginning of Catholic Schools Week throughout the United States. In addition to providing a strong academic environment, Catholic schools play a vital role in furthering the teaching mission of the Church by educating our young people in the doctrines and traditions of our Catholic faith. Catholic school formation incorporates the necessary tools for students to fully practice their Catholic faith according to values of the Gospel – so they may develop as persons of character and integrity.

At this time each year, we recognize the commitment, sacrifice, and dedication of the many teachers and staff who teach and work in the schools, the parents, the parishes that support Catholic schools, and the many benefactors who provide important financial support. Because of their generosity and commitment, Catholic school education is available to 7,516 students currently enrolled in the 39 Catholic schools located in our diocese.

In my name and on behalf of the diocese, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to those who make Catholic school education a reality. To each of you, I say thank you. I encourage the faithful of the diocese to continue their support of this important ministry of the church.

With gratitude and prayerful best wishes,

Most Reverend Walter A. Hurley
Bishop of Grand Rapids