



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE  
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

January 26, 2025  
Catholic Schools Week

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Each year, the Church across the United States joyfully celebrates the gift of Catholic Education during Catholic Schools Week, which begins today and concludes on February 1, 2025. The theme for Catholic Schools Week 2025 is, *United in Faith and Community*. As Bishop of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, I am profoundly proud of how our Catholic Schools on Long Island continue to evangelize our young Catholics with dedication and love.

In his Apostolic Exhortation, *The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis highlights that “Catholic schools, which always strive to join their work of education with the explicit proclamation of the Gospel, are a most valuable resource for the evangelization of culture” (§134). This mission-driven approach is particularly timely in our Diocese. This year, as the capstone to our local Eucharistic Revival efforts, we are preparing for our significant Eucharistic Congress on June 8, 2025, accompanied by Eucharistic Pilgrimages that will traverse across Long Island, leading up to this transformative event. The mission of these initiatives is woven into the very fabric of Catholic Education, aiming to deepen our students' love for Jesus through the transformative power of the Eucharist and to empower them to evangelize their families and communities.

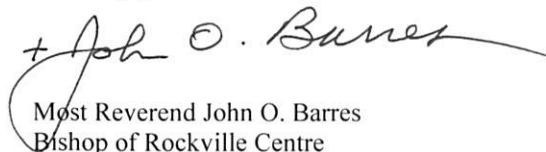
As our schools celebrate Catholic Schools Week 2025 with Masses, open houses, and various activities, we give thanks to the Lord for all who make Catholic Education possible. To our dedicated administrators, teachers, and staff members: thank you for tirelessly advancing the Church's mission by sharing your love for Christ and nurturing His presence in the lives of His children. To the parents and guardians who generously contribute your time and talents: your love for Christ and His Church is inspiring, and your dedication is deeply appreciated.

To all our faithful parishioners, I warmly invite you to visit our schools during this special week. Attend an open house, meet our educators, and witness firsthand the vibrant communities of faith and learning that thrive within our Catholic Schools. Your support and presence affirm the vital role of Catholic Education in forming future generations rooted in faith.

St. John Bosco, a patron saint of school children, captured the essence of Catholic Education when he said, “If we want to have a good society, we must concentrate all our forces on the Christian education of the young.” The incredible work being accomplished in our Catholic Schools fills me with great hope for the future of our society on Long Island—a future bright with young Catholics who are on fire for Jesus Christ and His Church.

Through the intercession of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, the patron saint of Catholic Education, Saint John Bosco, and Mary, Star of Evangelization, may the Lord continue to bless our Catholic Schools and all those involved in Catholic Education on Long Island, especially our students!

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Reverend John O. Barres  
Bishop of Rockville Centre