

# DIocese of Saginaw CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



Vol. VII Issue 1

September 2017

## WITNESS the DIFFERENCE

Happy 2017-2018 School Year!

I'm excited to share the Good News related to OUR Catholic Schools!

Once again, OUR dedicated Catholic school teaching staff came together in August as Community of Educators. Instead of focusing on our traditional academic and administrative topics, the focus of this year's opening day was dedicated to filling the Spiritual buckets of OUR devoted teaching staff.

We were very fortunate to have Mrs. Sheri Wolfert, a teacher from the Diocese of Lansing, lead OUR staff in a day of reflection and prayer. Sheri inspired us through her words and examples, and along with sharing personal stories of how the Holy Spirit has worked through her classroom teaching to guide her in ways she never expected.

Sheri reminded us that teaching in a Catholic School is a **ministry**. We believe that OUR educational and support staff are called to this vocation for a reason, and this is often beyond the scope of our own understanding. We were reminded that as we instruct and support the

education of OUR students, it is only when we open up to the will of the Holy Spirit can we truly pass on OUR faith. It was encouraging to see teachers and staff members nodding their heads in agreement with what was being said and shared.

Sheri also encouraged OUR educators to take their classroom teaching a step further, to truly

### WITNESS the DIFFERENCE

in all they do and say, every single day! It is through our open and honest reflection of Christ's love in OUR educational settings will we be true examples of Christian love and forgiveness for OUR students. Mrs. Wolfert's encouragement Witness the Difference on a daily basis, in all of our interactions, will help prepare souls for the Kingdom, while providing an open example of Christ's love for His Church.

The Most Rev. David M. O'Connell, C.M. Bishop of Trenton extends these thoughts when he says, "*Catholic schools have always been the hope of the Church in our country.*"

*Each successive generation of Catholics, from the time of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton to the present, have benefitted not only from the faith that has been taught there but also from the faith that has been witnessed in our Catholic schools. True evangelization requires both teaching and witness as our young people encounter the Lord Jesus Christ.*" We are very fortunate that OUR Catholic School educators and support staff understand their calling to be both the teacher and witness to OUR students. We concluded our day by traveling to the beautiful Cathedral of Mary of the Assumption to celebrate Mass with Rev. Steve Gavit and Rev. Jose Cabrera.

OUR Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Saginaw continue to create and encourage student leaders in our communities. OUR elementary school graduates go onto to be leaders in the high schools, colleges, and places of employment. The educational staff in all of OUR facilities take OUR shared responsibility of creating souls for the Kingdom seriously, and we appreciate and look forward to your kind and continued support throughout the 2017-2018 Academic Year.

Yours in Christ,  
Mary Ann Deschaine, Ed.S.



## Diocese of Saginaw Catholic Schools

**ALL SAINTS CENTRAL, BAY CITY**

**SACRED HEART ACADEMY, MT. PLEASANT**

**NOUVEL CATHOLIC CENTRAL, SAGINAW**

**ST. MARY SCHOOL, ALMA**

**AUBURN AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOL, AUBURN**

**ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER, BEAL CITY**

**OUR LADY OF LAKE HURON, HARBOR BEACH**

**BLESSED SACRAMENT SCHOOL, MIDLAND**

**SAINT BRIGID OF KILDARE SCHOOL, MIDLAND**

**ST. MICHAEL SCHOOL, PINCONNING**

**ST. ELIZABETH AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOL,  
REESE**

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