



Diocese of Saginaw Catholic Schools Newsletter

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Catholic Schools Week is Here!

Happy 2016!

New Years always bring new opportunities, and this is very true in the Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Saginaw. So many great things have occurred since my last publication!

The Most Rev. Joseph R. Cistone began our new school year by celebrating Mass with each of our 13 Catholic Schools. As a part of his homily, Bishop Cistone challenged the students and staff to become more Christ-like in their words and deeds.

Bishop Cistone also spent some time to discuss the Spiritual Acts of Mercy. He encouraged all in attendance to counsel the doubtful; instruct the ignorant; admonish the sinner; comfort the sorrowful; forgive injuries; bear wrongs patiently; pray for the living and the dead.

Bishop Cistone also focused on the Corporal Acts of Mercy: feed the hungry; give drink to the thirsty; shelter the homeless; clothe the naked; visit the sick; visit the prisoners; bury the dead; and give alms to the poor.

The challenge that Bishop Cistone put forth has not fallen on deaf ears. OUR Catholic School staffs and students continue to search for diverse ways to meet the needs of their communities.

Food and water drives help the students understand their call to Feed the Hungry and Cloth the Naked. These collections are only a small fraction of the activities that OUR students carry out in

the name of Jesus Christ. The emphasis on these types of activities are embedded into OUR Catholic Schools curriculum, and are stressed by the teachers and administrators everyday through their ministry. OUR young people embody OUR faith and OUR Catholic School students have actively embraced the call of the Holy Spirit through a better understanding of the Corporal and Spiritual Acts of Mercy. This deeper understanding of the Social Teachings of the Catholic Church demonstrate to OUR students that we do the things we do because it is right and just. According to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops "The Church's social teaching is a rich treasure of wisdom about building a just society and living lives of holiness amidst the challenges of modern society." OUR Catholic schools help form faith-filled citizens who are solid in their faith and grounded in the teachings of the Catholic church.

In order to better hone their skills to be more effective instructional and spiritual leaders in their classrooms, OUR Catholic School teachers had an opportunity this Fall to participate in the Michigan Associations of Non-public Schools (MANS) statewide conference. The MANS conference affords OUR Catholic Teaching Staff the opportunity to meet with like-minded teachers who also bring the Word of Christ to their students. It is an incredible opportunity to share their

gifts and talents, exchange best teaching practices with their colleagues and peers, and walk in the light of knowing that OUR Catholic schools are positively impacting the lives of so many.

As always, we thank you for your continued support of Catholic School education in the Diocese of Saginaw. OUR 13 Catholic Schools represent over 2350 students and 250 staff who have devoted countless hours and years to the academic and faith formation of OUR students.

Last year our three high school graduates earned over 3.5 million dollars in college scholarships and averaged 23 points on the ACT (MI state average was 20.1). OUR Catholic Schools have a 99% graduation rate while the state average is 79%. Catholic School graduates are more likely to finish a four year college degree in four years... the investment that is made pays off in the long run in more ways than one. Catholic Schools prepare students for OUR future!

Peace,
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