

“We
are all
one
Body
in
Christ.”



Diocese of Orlando
Secretariat for Education



2022-2023 Annual Report



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and Superintendent of Catholic Schools

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My Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

A Light has arisen! How glorious for us that Jesus the Eucharist comes to be within our presence as He is the Light within us. Jesus did not discern who would receive Him for He came for all the people. It is ours to choose Jesus the Eucharist and to be His Light in our world today.

Within this Annual Report, the Good News is proclaimed – our salvation story – as parents, guardians, faculty, missionaries, volunteers, spiritual directors, office staff, clergy, religious, children and young people bring the Light of Jesus to all they encounter. The Light of Christ shines forth through each one and the heavens break forth by all the good deeds in God’s name.

Thank you for being the presence of Jesus the Eucharist. By your gift of His matchless love, you diminish the darkness in the Light of our heart. May God bless you during this year.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Reverend John Noonan
Bishop of the Diocese of Orlando

*“The people who sit in darkness have seen a great light;
on those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death, light has arisen.”*

(Matthew 4:16)



Our Mission

Catholic schools in the Diocese of Orlando proclaim the Gospel message within an academic environment of excellence that challenges students to be creative and critical thinkers who integrate faith, moral leadership and compassionate service in order to create a more just and humane world.



2022-2023
DIOCESE OF ORLANDO
CATHOLIC SCHOOL
BOARD

Most Reverend John Noonan
 Bishop of Orlando

Ms. Theresa Simon
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Mr. Henry Fortier
 Secretary for Education
 and Superintendent of Catholic Schools

Dr. Jacquelyn Flanigan
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 St. Joseph Catholic Schools

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 Retired Orange County School Principal;
 Director of Ministry to the Sick at Sts. Peter & Paul
 Catholic Church, Winter Park

Mr. Orlando Evora
 Greenberg Traurig, P.A.

Rev. Matthew Mello
 Pastor, Our Lady of Hope Catholic Church

Mr. Lou Pereira
 President, Trinity Catholic High School
Representing High Schools

Ms. Patricia Kahle
 Principal, Annunciation Catholic Academy
Representing Elementary Schools

Mr. James Cooney
 Retired Associate Superintendent
 Diocese of Orlando

Sister Barbara T. Gould, RSM, Ed.D
 Retired Catholic School Superintendent

■ A Message from Superintendent Henry Fortier

Dear Friends, Supporters, and Members of the Catholic Community,

It is with great joy and gratitude that I welcome you to the 2022-2023 Annual Report for the Catholic Schools and the Secretariat for Education in the Diocese of Orlando. As we reflect on the past school year, we are reminded of the unwavering commitment to excellence and the transformative power of Catholic education and spiritual development within our community.

In the spirit of unity and faith, our Catholic schools continue to be beacons of light, cultivating a nurturing environment that fosters academic excellence, spiritual growth, and a strong sense of community. The dedication of our educators, the support of our families, and the generosity of our benefactors all contribute to the success and vitality of our schools.

This Annual Report serves as a testament to the countless achievements, milestones, and impactful moments that have shaped the educational journey of our students. From the classrooms to the playing fields, from the chapel to community outreach initiatives, our schools have become vibrant hubs where young minds are shaped; character is formed; and the teachings of Christ are embraced.

Throughout the pages of this report, you will discover the stories of triumph, innovation, and compassion that define our Catholic school communities, San Pedro Spiritual Development Center, and our Mission in the Diocese of San Juan de la Maguana. We celebrate the accomplishments of our students, the dedication of our faculty and staff, and the continuous support from our parents, guardians, and friends.

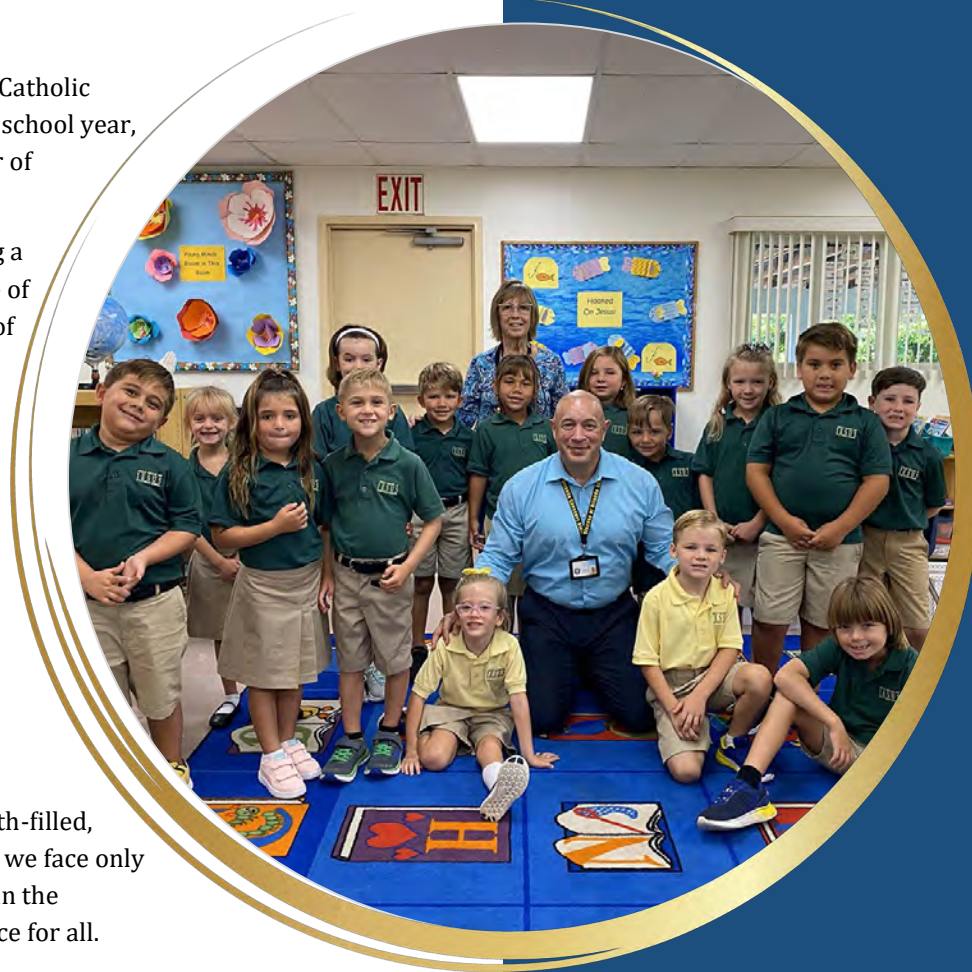
As we navigate the ever-changing landscape of education, our commitment to providing a faith-filled, academically rigorous, and socially enriching environment remains steadfast. The challenges we face only serve to strengthen our resolve; and together, we look to the future with optimism and faith in the transformative power of Catholic education to make our society a more loving and better place for all.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for your continued support, prayers, and commitment to the mission of Catholic education in the Diocese of Orlando. May God's grace continue to guide us as we embark on another year of academic excellence, spiritual growth, and community service.

Wishing you God's blessings and peace,



Henry Fortier
Secretary for Education/
Superintendent of Catholic Schools



■ Those We Serve



There are **40 Catholic Schools** in the Diocese of Orlando, serving infants, toddlers, and students PreK through 12th grade. Schools are located in Brevard, Lake, Marion, Orange, Osceola, Polk, Seminole, and Volusia counties. In addition, we support five Catholic Schools in our sister diocese, the Diocese of San Juan de la Maguana in the Dominican Republic.

Congratulations

The following schools received full accreditation during the 2022-2023 academic year: **Basilica School of St. Paul**, Daytona Beach; **Melbourne Central Catholic High School**, Melbourne; **Santa Fe Catholic High School**, Lakeland; and **Resurrection Preschool**, Winter Garden.

Brevard County

Melbourne Central Catholic High School*
 Ascension Catholic School*
 Holy Name of Jesus Catholic School*
 Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School
 Our Saviour Catholic School*
 St. Joseph Catholic School, Palm Bay*
 St. Mary Catholic School*
 St. Teresa Catholic School

Lake County

St. Paul Catholic School

Marion County

Trinity Catholic High School
 Blessed Trinity Catholic School

Orange County

Bishop Moore Catholic High School
 Good Shepherd Catholic School*
 Holy Family Catholic School*
 Morning Star Catholic School
 Resurrection Catholic Church Preschool
 St. Andrew Catholic School*
 St. Charles Borromeo Catholic School*
 St. James Cathedral School*
 St. John Vianney Catholic School*
 St. Margaret Mary Catholic School*
 St. Patrick Early Learning Center

Osceola County

Holy Redeemer Catholic School
 St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School

Polk County

Santa Fe Catholic High School
 Neumann Early Learning Academy
 Resurrection Catholic School*
 St. Anthony Catholic School
 St. Joseph Catholic School, Winter Haven

Seminole County

All Souls Catholic School*
 Annunciation Catholic Academy*
 St. Mary Magdalen Catholic School*
 Sts. Peter and Paul Early Learning Center

Volusia County

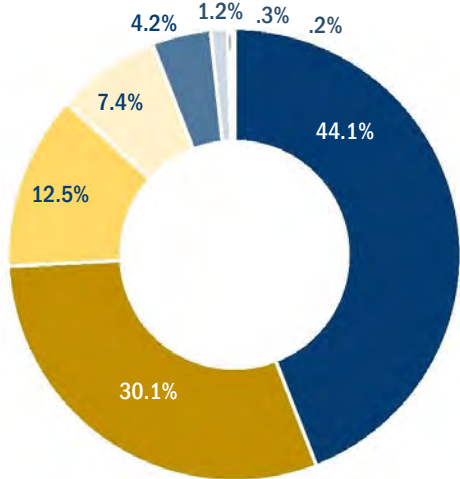
Father Lopez Catholic High School
 Basilica School of St. Paul
 Little Blessings Preschool
 Lourdes Academy*
 Sacred Heart Catholic School*
 St. Brendan Catholic School
 St. Peter Catholic School

Dominican Republic

Centro San Pablo
 Centro Sagrada Familia
 Nuestra Senora de Altagracia
 Centro San Francisco de Asis
 San Maximilian Kolbe Middle School

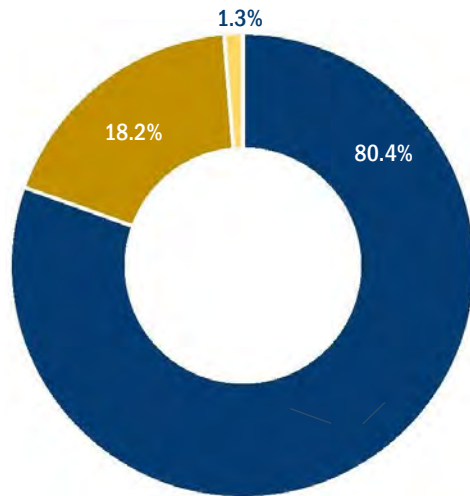
** Indicates a U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon School of Excellence*

All Catholic schools in the Diocese of Orlando are accredited by the **Florida Catholic Conference** and meet or exceed all state standards. Catholic high schools are also accredited through **Cognia**. To further promote our Catholic schools' mission, all schools are evaluated using the **National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools**. Lastly, 100% of eligible faculty are **certified by the State of Florida**.



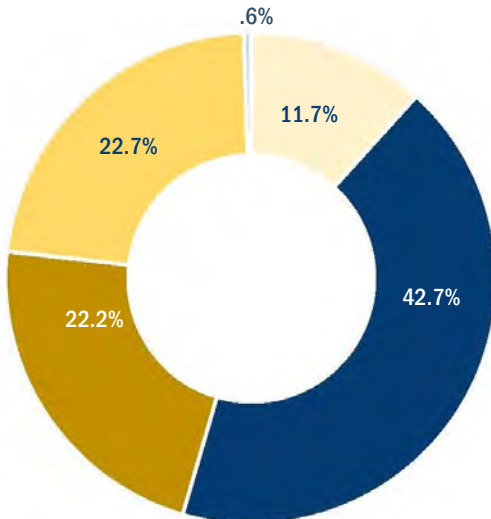
Ethnicity

- White (6,024)
- Hispanic (4,226)
- Multi-race (1,749)
- Black (1,038)
- Asian (589)
- Unknown (172)
- Hawaiian/Pacific Island (45)
- Native American (26)



Religious Affiliation

- Catholic (11,299)
- Non-Catholic (2,561)
- Unknown (189)



Grade Level

- Elementary (K-5) (6,000)
- Middle (6-8) (3,124)
- High School (9-12) (3,193)
- Morning Star (85)
- Infant-PreK (1,647)

* Note: We do not track the ethnicity or religious affiliation of our infants and toddlers; therefore, this age group is not reflected in those two charts.



■ Spiritually Centered

412

formal retreats were held for students and/or faculty

60%

of our 8th grade graduates continued their education at a Catholic high school

917

students received the Sacrament of First Holy Communion

913

students received the Sacrament of First Reconciliation

congratulations!

to Sarah Z., an 8th grade student at Annunciation Catholic Academy, who won the **2023 Marian Essay Contest**, presented by the Catholic Foundation of Central Florida.



153,049+

Number of documented service hours our students shared of themselves



378+

Major service projects conducted by our students in PreK-12th grade!

Here is a *sampling* of the numerous service projects our students undertook this year!

All Souls Catholic School – Children in need in the community had toys to open on Christmas Day thanks the school’s annual St. Nicholas Toy Drive.

Annunciation Catholic Academy – Second grade students made upcycled bracelets from recycled bags. They sold them, donating to the Sea Turtle Preservation Society.

Ascension Catholic School – Students collected food every week to donate to the Food Pantry!

Basilica School of St. Paul – Together with the VFW Auxiliary, 15 students cleaned 100+ gravestones of veterans at the Daytona Memorial Cemetery.

Bishop Moore Catholic High School – Students held numerous drives, including a Baby Shower for mothers in need, and a formal clothing drive.

Blessed Trinity Catholic School – Students made Christmas brighter for others through their Box of Joy Project.

Father Lopez Catholic High School – In addition to their annual Homeless Lockout, the entire student body packed meals for the hungry.

Good Shepherd Catholic School – Students made rosaries and prayer cards for those imprisoned.

Holy Family Catholic School – The NJHS organized several fundraising projects benefitting those in Somalia and Peru.

Holy Name of Jesus Catholic School – Students made book marks and rosaries for local assisted living homes.

Holy Redeemer Catholic School – Students gave generously to the five collections for our sister diocese in the Dominican Republic.

Lourdes Academy – Students collected food and supplies for local animal shelters as part of their St. Francis celebration.

Melbourne Central Catholic High School – Juniors and seniors volunteered monthly at Daily Bread, a non-profit organization serving neighbors in need.

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School – Students collected food to help make Thanksgiving possible for the less fortunate.

Our Saviour Catholic School – Students held a Coin War during Catholic Schools Week. Money collected was donated to a local charity.

Resurrection Catholic School – Among their many projects, students held a Read-A-Thon to benefit the parish Food Pantry.

Sacred Heart Catholic School – Students decorated the doors of a local nursing home residents for Christmas!

Santa Fe Catholic High School – Four students represented the school in the Right to Life March in St. Augustine in January.

St. Andrew Catholic School – Students serve as readers, altar servers, cantors, and choir members at parish and school Masses .

St. Anthony Catholic School – Students collected shoes, pajamas, cereal, canned goods, and baby items for the needy.

St. Brendan Catholic School – Students gave to several collections benefitting our sister diocese in the Dominican Republic and the parish Food Pantry.

St. Charles Borromeo Catholic School – Students celebrated the 100th day of school in a unique way; they collected diapers for babies in need.

St. James Cathedral School – Students teamed up with Miles to Go, a non-profit organization founded by a 9-year-old, and filled bags with donated items for the homeless.

St. John Vianney Catholic School – Students collected money for the JMJ Baby Bottle Drive, and items for the Bags of Bounty Drive!

St. Joseph Catholic School, Palm Bay – Among the school’s many projects were care bags for the homeless.

St. Joseph Catholic School, Winter Haven – Fourth grade students made bookmarks to pair with Bibles and food for Catholic Charities.

St. Margaret Mary Catholic School – Eighth grade students participated in the “Names, Not Numbers” Project, recognizing survivors of the Holocaust.

St. Mary Catholic School – Students prepped and packed food for The Children’s Hunger Project.

St. Mary Magdalen Catholic School – Feed the Children, Go Baby Go, and Clean the World were among the projects at SMM!

St. Paul Catholic School – Students packaged meals as part of their Lenten Food Project.

St. Peter Catholic School – The NJHS held a Used Technology Drive!

St. Teresa Catholic School – Students created Easter baskets for the parish Food Pantry.

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School – Students helped in Go Baby Go, Clean up the Lakefront, Pinktober, Partnership with Bishop Grady Villas and more!

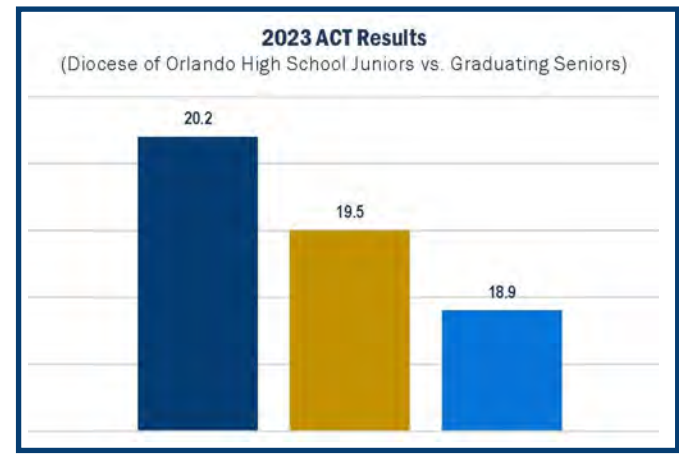
Trinity Catholic High School – Senior Retreat Service Project Day included eight different projects for non-profits, local parks, and seniors.



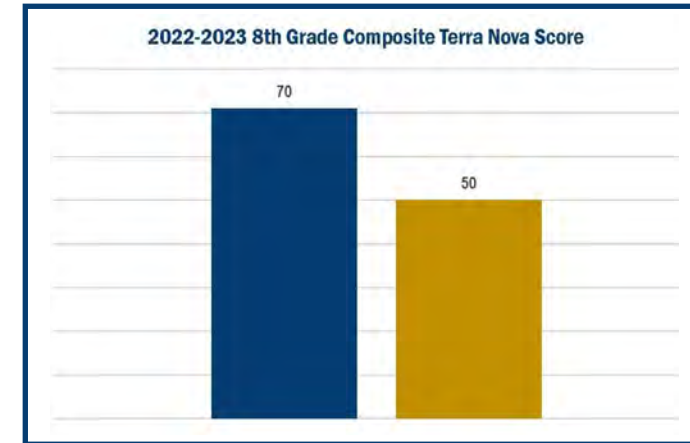
Every year, the Office of Catholic Schools presents the St. Teresa of Calcutta Award to one PreK-8 school and one high school in recognition for service projects completed during the academic year. Projects are based on the seven Corporal Works of Mercy: feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, bury the dead, shelter the traveler, comfort the sick, and free the imprisoned. Congratulations to St. Andrew Catholic School, Orlando and Santa Fe Catholic High School, Lakeland students, recipients of the 2022-2023 award!

■ Academically Engaged and Enriched

Academic excellence is the hallmark of a Diocese of Orlando Catholic School education, and the proof is in our test scores. On average, our 11th grade students continue to score higher on the ACT test than **graduating seniors** nationwide, as well as across the state. In our elementary/middle schools, our students continually score above state and national norms on standardized testing.



■ Diocese of Orlando Juniors ■ National Graduating Seniors
■ Florida Graduating Seniors



■ Diocese of Orlando ■ National

Congratulations!

Annunciation Catholic Academy, Altamonte Springs, (left photo) received STREAM (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, and Math) accreditation from the Florida Catholic Conference of Bishops. The school joins Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School, Melbourne (top right), and Resurrection Catholic School, Lakeland (bottom right) as schools in the diocese holding this distinction!

■ Athletics and Extracurriculars



7,375

Number of registered participants in K-8 sports. Most of our schools are part of the Catholic Youth Sports Association and compete against each other and other private schools.

Congratulations!

to our high school state and national champions!

- Bergaen B. – Girls Weightlifting/Olympic**
- Justin Woulard – Track and Field**
- Bishop Moore Girls' Soccer**
- Father Lopez Dancing Green Waves**
- Bishop Moore Dance – National Champs!**



9

Number of regional championships won by our high schools

12

Number of district championships won by our high schools



63

Number of high school graduates who received an athletic scholarship



New extracurricular activities introduced at our PreK-8th grade schools!

- WordMasters National Vocabulary Challenge,
- Mission to Mars, Chess Club, Lacrosse,
- Garden Club, Book Club, Lego Club, Junior Thespian Troupe, Passport Club, Band,
- Sewing, Cooking, Robotics, Student Service Council, Fitness Training Camp Cardio,
- Modern Band, Concert Band, Sports Club, Girls Who Code, Middle School Tutoring with BMC,
- 1st-3rd Homework Help with BMC, Bible Club, Divers Club (religion based), Plant Club, Project Innovate, and Project Lead the Way



Wyatt A., Jessica B., Colt K., and Victoria M. made their Sacrament of First Reconciliation. William B. and Victoria L. made their Sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation! Jessica B. was also confirmed!



Congratulations!
Bonnie P., Jean Paul F., and Taylor P. graduated!



79%
of our students learned alongside their peers at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic School and Bishop Moore Catholic High School.

It was a year of Firsts!
Bonnie, Jean Paul, and Taylor were the first Morning Star graduates to receive an official high school transcript and diploma from the State of Florida!
Plus....we held our first Talent Show, Top Golf Spirit Night, and Grandparents' Day!

7
Number of new After School Clubs – Star Wars, Nature, Philanthropy, Lego, Yoga, Fun Run, and American Sign Language.

Early Childhood Education

100%
of our Early Learning Centers are accredited by the Florida Catholic Conference.



1,647
Number of children, ages six weeks to four years old, served in our Early Learning programs.



100%
of our elementary schools offer Early Learning Programs



We are saddened to report that Sts. Peter and Paul Early Learning Center closed. The school building sustained significant damage during several storms, making repair costs prohibitive.

More than 200 early childhood educators gathered Sept. 2, 2022 at Holy Family Catholic Church, Orlando, for the Office of Catholic Schools' annual Early Childhood Professional Development Day. The day featured training developed for the specific needs of children ages 0 – 5 years, as well as time to meet and share ideas with fellow teachers. This year's topic was "Conscious Discipline," which is a developmentally appropriate, comprehensive approach to supporting children in their social and emotional development.



■ Elementary/Middle Schools

Diocese of Orlando Catholic School instruction offers a solid foundation in Florida educational standards, enriched in religion, foreign language, fine arts, computer science, and physical education. Our schools' cross-curricular, hands-on approach to learning utilizes technology, promotes creativity, and actively engages students to discover, inquire about, and improve the world around them.

Here are a few of awards and recognitions our students and schools received during the academic year:

- All Souls Catholic School was named Best Private School in Sanford by the Sanford Magazine!
- Basilica School of St. Paul received the VFW Youth Activities Award for its Grave Beautification Project.
- Ascension Catholic School student Auggie S. scored in the **top 10% in the world** in the Math Olympiad, while Tyler P., Landon M., and Eleanor T. scored in the top 20%.
- Lourdes Academy students are the Great History Challenge State Champions!
- Several schools throughout the diocese had students who won or placed in various art and writing categories in their respective DAR and Knights of Columbus contests.
- 1st students at Resurrection Catholic School received the Best Teamwork Award in the Curtis Rising Star Science Competition.
- Holy Family Catholic School's newly created Junior Thespian Troup won Best in Show and multiple Superior ratings in a theatrical competition.
- Two students from St. Brendan Catholic School represented Volusia County in the State Social Studies Fair.
- Katie H., a student at St. Joseph Catholic School, Palm Bay, was named the Palm Bay Rotary Club Outstanding Student of the Year
- St. Margaret Mary Catholic School was named the City of Winter Park Outstanding Educational Institute, and had a student receive the Kiwanis Outstanding Student Award and the DAR Outstanding Student Award.
- The 7th grade team from St Mary Magdalen Catholic School won the Most Innovative and Creative Award in the Curtis Kinetic Science Competition at the Orlando Science Center.
- Competitors from St. Peter Catholic School are State Chess Champions!
- 7th and 8th grade students from St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School took first place in the Osceola County Science and Engineering Fair, while another student won the Toho Water Authority Rain Barrel contest, and a 1st grade student won the Kissimmee Utility Authority Calendar Contest!

■ Our High Schools



406
Number of colleges in which our graduates were accepted.

100%
of high school seniors graduated.

97%
of our graduates headed to college or the military.

More than
\$40.6 million
Amount of money our 762 graduates earned in scholarships.

7
high school students were National Merit Scholars



156,214+
Number of volunteer hours our high school students gave of themselves.



3,193
Number of high school students we served in our five Catholic high schools.



Welcome new principals!

We welcomed five new administrators to our schools in 2022-2023!



Mrs. Camille Jowanna was named principal of Santa Fe Catholic High School, Lakeland. Mrs. Jowanna is an accomplished educator with master's degrees from Notre Dame and the University of Tampa. She has served as a science teacher and principal in the Tampa area.



Mrs. Monica Matthews was named principal of her alma mater, St. Paul Catholic School in Leesburg. She holds her bachelor's and master's degrees from St. Leo University. Part of the St. Paul staff since 2006, she has served as a teacher and assistant principal.



Dr. Jamie Rodriguez was named principal of St. Charles Borromeo Catholic School in Orlando. Holding a master's degree from Notre Dame University and a doctorate from Stanford University, Orlando, she has 20 years of experience as a teacher and as assistant principal, most recently at St. Margaret Mary and St. John Vianney Catholic schools.



Ms. Lisa Schaal served as assistant principal at Resurrection Catholic School, Lakeland, before being named principal. Ms. Schaal has been part of the faculty and administration at Resurrection since 2003.



Prior to becoming principal at St. Mary Catholic School, Rockledge, **Mrs. Stephanie Swartz** taught at Our Lady of Lourdes, Melbourne, for 12 years. She holds a bachelor's degree from the University of North Florida and her master's degree from St. Leo University.

100% of our eligible faculty are state-certified!

We recognize two Orlando Catholic School principals for receiving the Jenni Heneghan Distinguished Leadership Award. **Dr. Erika Wikstrom**, principal at Bishop Moore Catholic High School, received the award for the 2021-2022 academic year, and **Mrs. Latrina Peters-Gipson** was recognized for the 2022-2023 academic year. This Leadership Award, named in honor of the late Jennifer Heneghan, who served as principal at All Souls Catholic School in Sanford, is presented annually to an educator who exemplifies Jenni's spirit, faith life and professionalism.



1,019
Number of educators serving our children.

40%
of our faculty hold advanced degrees.

100+
of our faculty, administration, and staff are serving at their alma mater!

2022-2023 Distinguished Teachers

as selected by their school leaders



Every year, the Office of Catholic Schools recognizes one extraordinary teacher from each school. Selected by the school's administration, the honorees are presented with the **Diocese of Orlando Distinguished Catholic School Educator Award** during OCS annual **Educator Kick-Off event**. We are pleased to present the diocese's top teachers for 2022-2023.

Early Learning Centers



Maria Gilfillan

Annunciation Catholic Academy,
Altamonte Springs



Mary Martinez

Little Blessings Early Learning Center,
Deltona



Maria Smith

St. Mary Magdalen Catholic School,
Altamonte Springs

K-8 Teachers



Martha Ariza

All Souls Catholic School, Sanford



Kristen Jensen

Annunciation Catholic Academy,
Altamonte Springs



Patricia Smith

Ascension Catholic School,
Melbourne



Lee Ann Brown

Basilica School of St. Paul, Daytona Beach



Judy Davis

Blessed Trinity Catholic School, Ocala



Bilynda Cullen

Good Shepherd Catholic School, Orlando



Shelly Emery

Holy Family Catholic School, Orlando



Janet McCauley

Holy Name of Jesus Catholic School,
Indialantic



Donna Marie Hamilton

Holy Redeemer Catholic School,
Kissimmee



Beverly Francois

Lourdes Academy, Daytona Beach



Francine Lloyd

Morning Star Catholic School, Orlando



Michael Fairbanks

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School,
Melbourne



Christine Rodecker

Our Saviour Catholic School, Cocoa Beach



Emily Saires

Resurrection Catholic School, Lakeland



Barbara Panagis

Sacred Heart Catholic School,
New Smyrna Beach



Shirley Descopain

St. Andrew Catholic School, Orlando



Cindy Solomon

St. Anthony Catholic School, Lakeland



Tara Cawley

St. Brendan Catholic School, Ormond Beach



Tammy Dorazio

St. Charles Borromeo Catholic School,
Orlando



Carrie Bailey

St. James Cathedral School, Orlando



Robin DeVito

St. John Vianney Catholic School, Orlando



Susan Horn

St. Joseph Catholic School, Palm Bay



Ana Estevez

St. Joseph Catholic School, Winter Haven



Donna Covelli Chapman

St. Margaret Mary Catholic School,
Winter Park



Nancy Potchka

St. Mary Catholic School, Rockledge



Samantha Heiskell

St. Mary Magdalen Catholic School,
Altamonte Springs



Catherine Terman

St. Paul Catholic School, Leesburg



Chris Parker

St. Peter Catholic School, Deland



Pamela Scully

St. Teresa Catholic School, Titusville



Camille Pino

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School,
St. Cloud

High Schools



Bill Shade

Bishop Moore Catholic High School,
Orlando



Monica Kumar

Father Lopez Catholic High School,
Daytona Beach



Michael McMullan

Melbourne Central Catholic High School,
Melbourne



Anne Becker

Santa Fe Catholic High School, Lakeland



Regina Zinnie

Trinity Catholic High School, Ocala

Two distinguished principals retire in 2023!



We bid a “Happy Retirement” to two exceptional leaders — **Sister Dorothy Sayers, M.P.F.**, and **Ms. Cathy Marshall** — who played instrumental roles in forming the communities in which they served.

Sister Dorothy was the founding principal of Holy Family Catholic School, Orlando, which opened in 1996 as a K-3 school. For 27 years, she helped grow the school to the vibrant, multi-facility, award-winning PreK-8 community, serving more than 600 students. During the celebration of Mass commemorating the school’s Silver Jubilee, Sister Dorothy said, “What keeps the school so beautiful is the smiles of all of the children. They are so joy-filled. I have a lot to be grateful for.” Sister Dorothy continues to serve the school and parish community.

During her seven-year tenure, Ms. Cathy Marshall changed

the trajectory of St. John Vianney Catholic School, Orlando, as she spearheaded the efforts in making the school the first and only dual-language Catholic school in the Diocese at SJV. Under this model, 50 percent of classroom instruction is taught in English and 50 percent in Spanish. “Our cultural heritage symbolizes who we are as children of God,” she said. “We all bring something unique to our community, as we are united in the love of Christ.”

We would be remiss if we failed to mention an oversight on our part in recognizing a beloved school leader who retired in 2021-2022. After years of dedicated service as a teacher, assistant principal, and principal at Good Shepherd Catholic School, Orlando, and most recently, St. Paul Catholic School, Leesburg, **Mrs. Debbie Ahearn** retired and is now enjoying her time spent with her family. We apologize for the error.

Our commitment to the next generation of leaders continues!

The Diocese of Orlando continues its commitment to school leadership discernment and development through two cohort groups, the **St. Leo University M.Ed. Cohort**, and the **Leadership Discernment Group**. Both groups meet regularly with representatives from the Office of Schools as well as current leaders in our Catholic schools.

The Leadership Discernment Group is comprised of approximately 20 participants who are seeking to determine whether they are interested in pursuing Catholic Educational Leadership. For this group, we delve into those issues and expectations that are consistently faced by our administrators. For these sessions, a topic is determined and an individual principal or a panel of leaders shares their unique experiences.

We also have ample time for Q & A from the group which furthers their understanding of the demands of a Catholic School principal.

The St. Leo University M.Ed. Cohort is comprised of those participants who are collaboratively working on their master’s in educational leadership from St. Leo University. This unique Cohort is blessed to have the financial support of Bishop Noonan who provides tuition assistance to these future leaders. This assistance comes with the commitment to remain in the Diocese for a pre-determined period once the degree has been completed.

The Office of Schools is also active in this Cohort by creating parallel workshops for every course in the program. For example, the Cohort is in the School Finance course, representatives from the schools’ office and leaders from the field share and support an understanding of how school finance looks in our Diocese. The Office of Schools works directly with St. Leo University to create a program that is relevant, timely, and most importantly, true to our faith.

For both Cohorts, this is the second group to go through the respective programs. As a result, we have placed several principals from these groups in our schools comfortable in the knowledge that we are cultivating leaders from within.

— Dr. Jacquelyn Flanigan, Associate Superintendent of Schools

Faces of Catholic Education— Honoring Excellence, Inspiring Future Leaders

Recognizing the backbone of our educational community, the Office of Catholic School Marketing team launched the "Faces of Catholic Education" campaign with a dual initiative of putting the spotlight on our exceptional teachers who dedicate themselves to the education, support, and growth for our students, while also extending an invitation to new talent to become part of our communities. The "Faces of Catholic Education" was launched throughout the Diocese of Orlando.



Celebrating Our Educators: The heart of the campaign lied in recognizing and celebrating the diverse and dedicated "Faces" that make Catholic education truly special. Through captivating profiles, testimonials, and glimpses into the daily lives of our teachers, the campaign illuminated the passion and commitment woven into every lesson, nurturing the minds and spirits of our students.

Recruitment Redefined: Beyond a celebration, the campaign became a beacon for new teachers across our region. By offering a direct outlet to apply for open positions or submit resumes to hiring managers at each school, we streamlined the recruitment process. This innovative approach not only facilitated quick and efficient hiring but also ensured that our schools embarked on the new academic year with a complete staff.

— Mrs. Maria del Amo, Director of Marketing, Western Region

In response to the increasing demand for skilled and dedicated teachers, the Diocese of Orlando convened a committee comprising school principals, controllers, and select staff members to adopt a revised salary scale. The goal of the new scale is to reflect a commitment to bridging the compensation gap, that more closely aligns with public school teacher salaries. By offering competitive pay, Catholic schools aim to attract and retain dedicated teachers who contribute not only to academic excellence but also to students' spiritual and moral development. This strategic approach is meant to enhance the overall quality of education, reinforcing Catholic schools' mission as institutions devoted to both academic and spiritual growth.

— Mrs. Jacqueline Abrahams, Director of School Finance

New Diocesan Standards introduced

For the past two years, the Office of Catholic School has been revising core content standards for Social Studies, Science, Language Arts, and Math. For the start of the 2023-2024 school year, the Office of School rolled out new Social Studies standards and benchmarks for our K through 8 Elementary Schools. The goal of this ambitious project was to fully infuse Catholic teaching and theology directly in those content areas in a developmentally appropriate and authentic way. By meeting this goal, our schools will be better positioned to fully meet the Florida Catholic Conference Accreditation requirement for Academic Excellence, Standard 7, Benchmark 2:

Standard 7

An excellent Catholic school has a clearly articulated, rigorous curriculum aligned with professionally accepted, research-based curriculum standards and gospel values implemented through effective instruction.

7.2 *The curriculum integrates Catholic worldview, spiritual, moral, and ethical dimensions of learning in all subjects.*

For this effort, content-area experts from our schools were selected to be on committees to address these revisions. Also included on the committees were those experts in

Diocesan Catholic Faith Formation and our Faith Formation standards. Throughout the course of nearly three years, we reviewed the Florida standards and benchmarks and determined how the instruction and content would be delivered through our Catholic perspective. Our schools were already using Florida state standards but by integrating our Catholic faith the committee was able to provide a Catholic worldview, and in doing so, support those teachers, particularly the newer teachers, in providing that perspective.

The first content area standards to be completed and rolled out to the schools were for Social Studies. The K-8 Diocese of Orlando Social Studies Standards have been approved by Bishop Noonan and have been well-received by our schools for the direct integration of our Faith as well as the logical organization and structure of the content. The Diocesan Science Standards, which include STREAM objectives, have also been approved and released to the schools. By the start of the 2024-2025 school year, the standards for K-8 Math and English Language Arts will be completed.

— Dr. Jacquelyn Flanigan,
Associate Superintendent of Schools

OCS initiates proactive measures to thwart cyber-attacks in schools

During the last few years, the number of cyber-attacks have been on the rise, and schools are amongst the list of those vulnerable entities. School districts across the county have been victims of ransomware, phishing, and other cyber-attacks.

In November 2022, the Office of Catholic Schools (OCS) assembled a team of technology directors from across the diocese to develop an assessment tool used to measure our schools' vulnerability to such attacks and provide guidance to mitigate potential risks. The assessment tool was developed using the controls recommended by Homeland Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency. These controls were designed to strengthen cybersecurity and infrastructure protection by targeting weak areas of potential threat.

The Diocesan Cybersecurity Plan was finalized and presented to the Catholic school leaders in May 2022. In collaboration with the Office of Risk Management, the assessment tool was cross referenced with the criteria necessary to ensure all of our schools meet the requirements to qualify

for cybersecurity insurance.

During the summer of 2022, onsite visits were completed at all K-12 schools throughout the diocese to audit current protocols and infrastructure in order to develop a school-based plan to meet the minimum requirement to protect sensitive data. The OCS continues to work with each school on continued improvement to reduce any vulnerabilities.

In addition, schools are implementing digital citizenship curriculum for staff and students to become more diligent in identified dangerous cyber threats and to provide ways to identify and prevent a breach in cyber security.

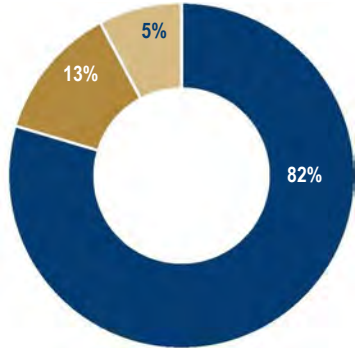
Increased awareness and mitigating tools will continue to be part of the Office of Catholic Schools Emergency Management Plan and policies developed to provide steps in reporting a cyber incident and measures to mitigate cyberattack when they occur.

— Mrs. Margie Aguilar, Director of Instructional Technology



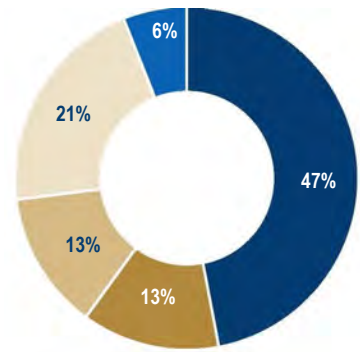
Early Learning Centers

Revenue



- Net Tuition & Fees, \$5,262,347
- Fundraising & Development Support, \$828,066
- All Other, \$349,847

Expenses

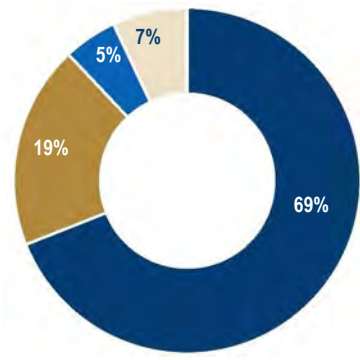


- Instructional, \$2,958,534
- Administration, \$811,995
- Plant, \$779,883
- Fixed & Other, \$1,331,251
- Ancillary, \$374,872



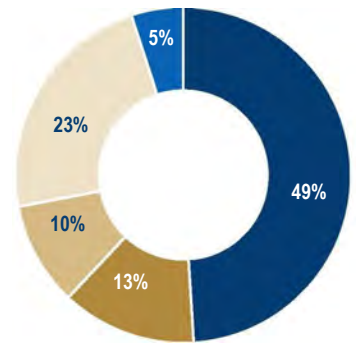
PreK-8 Schools

Revenue



- Net Tuition & Fees, \$76,539,121
- Fundraising & Development Support, \$20,458,531
- Parish Support, \$5,038,768
- All Other, \$8,220,347

Expenses

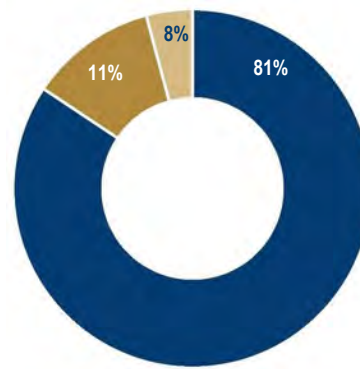


- Instructional, \$48,978,286
- Administration, \$12,923,826
- Plant, \$9,678,393
- Fixed & Other, \$22,559,230
- Ancillary & Athletics, \$5,534,596



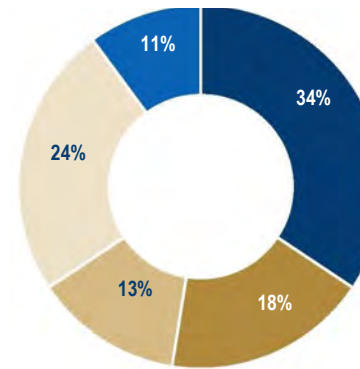
High Schools

Revenue



- Net Tuition & Fees, \$39,715,932
- Fundraising & Development Support, \$5,386,097
- All Other, \$3,789,526

Expenses



- Instructional, \$15,800,247
- Administration, \$8,353,281
- Plant, \$6,087,323
- Fixed & Other, \$11,540,727
- International, Ancillary & Athletics, \$5,089,758

Catholic Education is Affordable

Many of our families are able to send their children to Catholic schools thanks to the following support.

Thank you!

Endowment funds provide an ongoing source of revenue for Catholic schools. Thanks to the generosity of donors through The Catholic Foundation of Central Florida, families throughout the diocese are able to realize the dream of a Catholic education for their children.

\$470,548

Amount of tuition assistance distributed from these diocesan-wide endowment funds:

- AIC Tuition Assistance Endowment Fund
- Adelaida Valdes Endowment Fund
- Fr. Frank Zammit Endowment Fund



\$439,580

Endowment earnings distributed from the 48 additional school-specific endowment funds held at The Catholic Foundation of Central Florida. In addition to scholarships and tuition assistance, these funds also provide dollars for programs and operations.



\$11,936,416

in Catholic tuition assistance and other tuition and fee allowances offered by local parishes, schools, etc.



\$2,358,931

in VPK allowances (serving 903 students).



\$21,911,280

in Florida Tax Credit Scholarships (serving 3,072 students)



\$23,568,319

in Florida Empowerment Scholarships for Educational Options (serving 2,314 students)



\$10,522,252

in Florida Empowerment Scholarships for Unique Abilities (formerly Gardiner Scholarships) (serving 1,218 students)



\$112,121

in Step Up for Students Hope Scholarship (serving 17 students)

Please note, children shown in photographs are not necessarily scholarship recipients.

San Pedro Spiritual Development Center



82
Number of programs offered by San Pedro

New to our offerings:
 St. Francis, A Man of Peace
 Franciscan Day Retreat presented by *Tony and Jeane Walter*, OSF- October 2022
 Stations of the Crib- December 2022
 Holy Week Day Retreat presented by *John Molloy* - April 2023
 Journey Through The Mass with Fr. George Dunn and the Life In the Eucharist- May 2023

1,200+
number of people who participated in our Christmas Family Night event!

683
Number of participants in our 11 San Damiano Society events!

Top Three Most Popular San Damiano Society Events

1. *The Science of the Shroud of Turin* presented by *Dr. Jess Socrates* (June 2023)
2. *A Spiritual Journey in the Footsteps of St. Clare of Assisi* presented by *Faith Libbe*, OSF (August 2022)
3. *Nicholas Black Elk; Medicine Man, Catechist, Saint* presented by *Fr. Ben Berinti CSSP* (July 2022)

We hosted the USCCB in February of 2023 and the Consortium of Catholic Foundations CEO Symposium in May of 2023!

We hosted **143** priests during their annual retreat.

6 Number of Weekend Retreats held at San Pedro!

In October, we began a partnership with Mary, Queen of the Universe to host their new event, **First Saturdays with the Blessed Mother.**

340
Number of campers who had a lot of fun growing in their love of Jesus. That is 93 more campers from as year!



"Camp San Pedro has been incredible for our whole family. The songs, riddles, and being on 'San Pedro time' have created a lot of fun memories and a real sense of community for the campers." — Camper parent



Sister Bernie retires!

After 31 years of serving the people in the Diocese of San Juan de la Maguana in the Dominican Republic, Sister Bernie left the mountain and retired! Sister Bernie was named Director of the Mission Office in 1991. She During her time in the mission, she led countless construction, medical, dental, and education mission trips. She and her team coordinated the building of schools, homes and churches. They trained teachers and sponsored Dominican students to study in the United States. In her retirement, she said she could hardly have imagined the legacy she has left behind when she first accepted the position.



531

Number of students enrolled in our elementary and high schools. They are taught by 42 teachers.



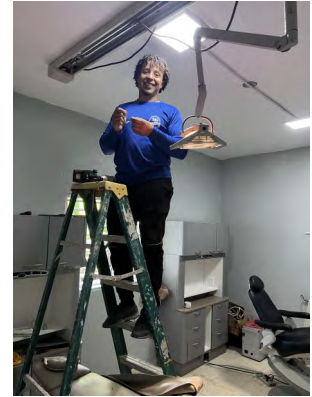
4

Number of student missionary trips. High school students from the Diocese travel to the DR to teach local children English. Our education missions also included a group of 8 educators who worked with the teachers of the DR.

Vision comes to fruition!

More than a decade ago, with the blessing of Bishop John Noonan, Ursuline Sister Bernie MacKay and Superintendent Henry Fortier had an idea — create an educational program that allows students from the Diocese of San Juan de la Maguana to study at one of the five Catholic high schools in the Diocese of Orlando and possibly at a U.S. college or university and then use the education and skills they acquired to improve the lives of the people in the Dominican Republic.

Luis Jose Aybar De Los Santos was among the first group of students chosen. Graduating from Bishop Moore Catholic High School in 2015, he continued his education state side, ultimately earning his AA in Engineering from Valencia State College, his Bachelor in Civil Engineering from UCF, and his Masters in Construction Administration from Instituto Tecnologico De SANTO DOMINGO.



Today works for the Diocese of San Juan de la Maguana, as a Project Supervisor for the Mission Office, where he manages and directs large construction projects to benefit low-income families.

He has completed the construction of 36 homes and two chapels, along with monitoring a residence program for high school students, organizing part of the logistics for missionary groups.

He is recognized by his alma mater as a member of the Bishop Moore Catholic High School 40 Under 40 Class of 2023.

7

Number of students from the DR studying studying at a Diocese of Orlando Catholic high school in 2022-2023

Thank you! We would like to express our deepest gratitude to the men and women who gave so generously of themselves as missionaries to our various missions. Because of you, we were able to host four **construction missions** and **two dental missions**.

We celebrated Sister Bernie's retirement with a surprise party on Sept. 9 at the San Pedro Development Center. The bittersweet event drew more than 100 people who have known and loved Sister throughout the years.





DIocese OF ORLANDO SECRETARIAT FOR EDUCATION

Office of Catholic Schools ♦ Mission Office ♦ San Pedro Spiritual Development Center

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