



February 1, 2021

Dear Students,

I am happy to be writing to you, as we begin the celebration of Catholic Schools Week 2021. This year we will be thinking about what makes our Catholic Academies and Parish Schools wonderful, through the theme of “Faith. Excellence. Love.” This year has shown us just how special our schools are.

Faith is the most important part of our Catholic Academies and Parish Schools. You come to school each day to hear the Word of God and walk in Jesus’ footsteps. It is an incredibly special opportunity to be a part of school community that can pray together. As you go through your day today, I encourage you to take a moment in prayer. Say a prayer in thanks for your school community, the faith you share, and the individuals who make it possible to be in school each day.

When you think of the word excellence in school, what comes to mind? I am reminded of the incredible amount of learning that occurs in our Catholic Academies and Parish Schools but more importantly, I am reminded of the teachers and staff who make it possible. We have some of the best teachers in your classrooms and schools. Teachers who have been working incredibly hard this year to share their love of learning. How are your teachers excellent? Take a moment today to tell your teacher, or write a note telling them what makes them special.

Jesus showed us through His words and actions that part of living our faith is serving others. Service is such an important part of our schools. I am proud of the way students live their faith each time I see students helping one another, volunteering in the community, organizing food and toy drives, or reaching out to the elderly. Learning to serve others now, helps you to become an adult who thinks about and cares for others. It is the first step in making the world a better place. How can you help someone today? How can you live like Jesus in your words and actions?

My own children, who are now grown with children of their own, still talk about their wonderful experiences in their Catholic elementary and high schools. What experiences will you carry with you as you graduate? What memories will you keep in your hearts through adulthood? All children will have memories of their time in school, but Catholic schools are unique in the feelings of faith, love, and community that you can sense each time you walk into the school building. As we celebrate this week, I want you to think about what sets your school apart from all others and remember to be thankful to all the individuals who help make this experience possible.

Yours in Faith,

***Thomas Chadzutko***

Thomas Chadzutko, Ed.D.  
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