

January 2009

Dear Catholic School Parents,

Every year during *Catholic Schools Week*, we celebrate the characteristics that make Catholic education special, and honor those who contribute to the excellence of our schools, including you – the parents.

The theme for the 2009 *Catholic Schools Week* is “Catholic Schools Celebrate Service.” What an appropriate focus! Service to others is a fundamental building block of our faith and it is a cornerstone of Catholic education. Catholic schools teach your children to live the Gospel through actions, not just words.

When you decided to send your children to a Catholic school, you provided them with an important service. You indicated how much you value the teachings of Jesus being present in your students’ school life. The commitment you show when you give to your children’s school is important too, whether it is time spent volunteering at school festivals, fundraisers, or in the classroom. For all of these things, I thank you.

It is also important to remember all of the teachers and staff who not only provide your children with superior education, but also show them how to put their faith into action through service. Regardless of the form it takes, service is an integral part of your children’s religious education. The lessons taught by our faculty may be as simple as leading by example on the playground or as difficult as working for social justice by identifying and remedying the underlying causes of poverty. Food drives, fundraisers, collections and building a more just society are all ways your children are inspired to live a Christ-like life through Catholic schools.

During *Catholic Schools Week*, please take time to thank and honor the Catholic school teachers and staff making a difference in your children’s lives and in the world.

Thank you for your continued support of our Catholic schools. God bless you and your family. Have a blessed *Catholic Schools Week*!

Faithfully in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Timothy M. Dolan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T' and a cross symbol to the left.

Most Reverend Timothy M. Dolan
Archbishop of Milwaukee

