



Office of the Bishop

Diocese of Rockford

555 Colman Center Drive
P.O. Box 7044
Rockford, Illinois 61125

(815) 399-4300
Fax (815) 399-4769

January 26, 2026

Dear Friends,

This year the annual week of celebration of Catholic schools runs from January 25 -31. Its theme this year, Catholic Schools: United in Faith and Community, is both timely and welcome.

The theme stresses three elements that are the core of Catholic education. First, unity. In Catholic schools there is a deeply shared purpose and commitment. Every student bears the great dignity of being created in the image and likeness of God. Our staff and administrators reflect their own dignity and their commitment to the flourishing love and respect for and among the students and their families.

Second, the work and purpose of Catholic schools is intrinsically linked to our Catholic faith. The imparting of knowledge and faith in Jesus Christ to our students and families is part of the educational experience that is joined to the well documented academic excellence of our Catholic schools.

Finally, our Catholic schools form a community. Students and staff regularly demonstrate and celebrate pride in their school that forms bonds that last a lifetime. Additionally, the Catholic understanding that parents are the first teachers of their children places families front and center in forming bonds of communities in our schools.

In the Diocese of Rockford we are proud to sponsor 37 schools from pre-K through high school. More than 8,300 students attend our schools served by over 800 dedicated staff members.

I am deeply grateful to our parents, school leaders, and teachers whose daily witness makes this mission visible and alive. Through their sacrifice, joy, and fidelity, faith is not only taught but proclaimed, inviting students and families into a living encounter with Jesus Christ. In a time when the Church calls us to renewal and revival, our Catholic schools stand as places where hearts are formed, hope is rekindled, and the Gospel is joyfully lived and shared, one child, one family, and one community at a time.

How proud we are to celebrate this reality in Catholic Schools Week!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ David J. Malloy

Most Reverend David J. Malloy
Bishop of Rockford