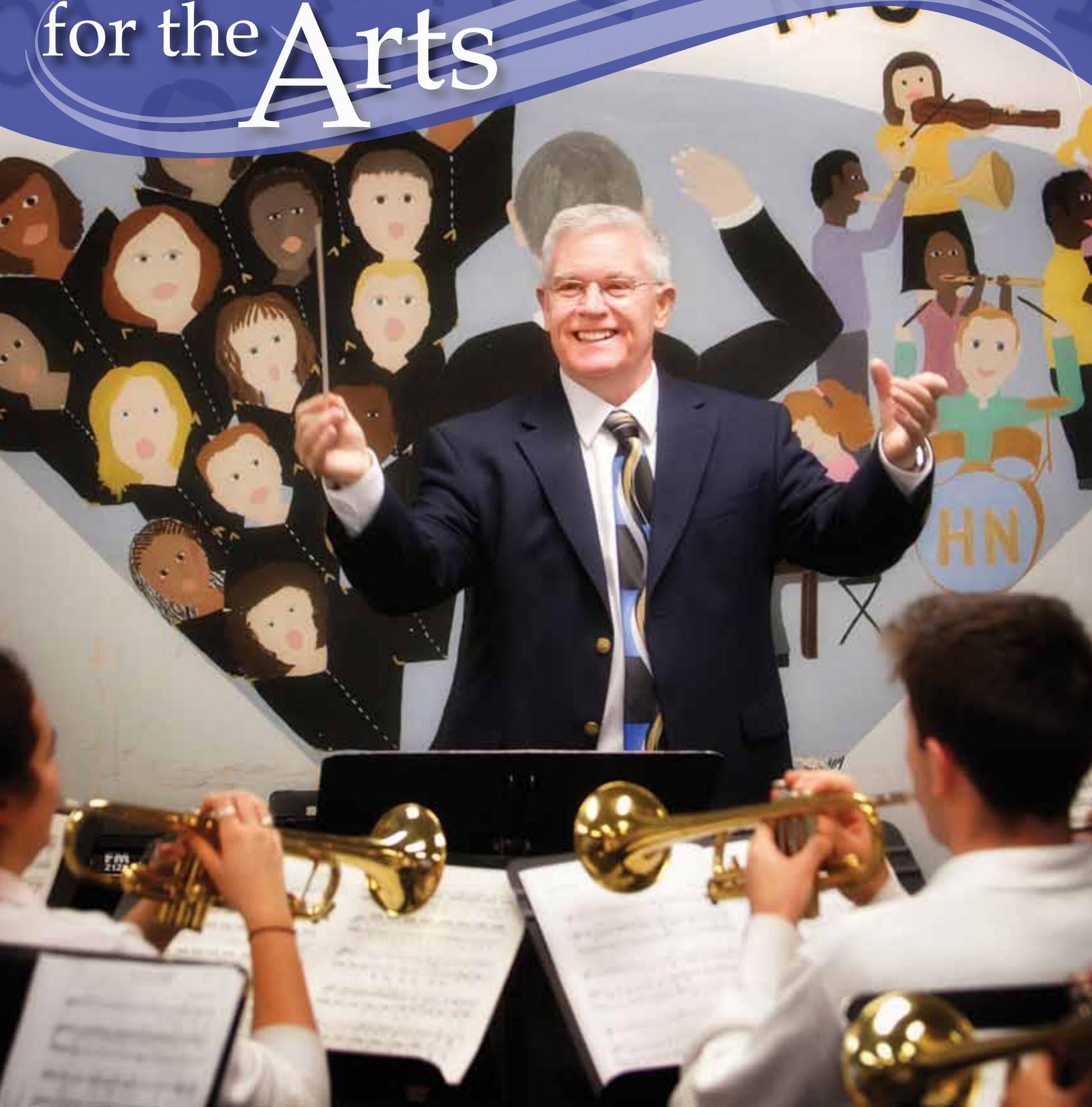


Holy Name Music Teacher  
Joseph Burke



DIOCESE OF WORCESTER  
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE  
ANNUAL REPORT 2011

# Inspires a Love for the Arts





Bishop Robert J.  
McMANUS

*Bishop of Worcester*

*“It is a joy to watch how our Catholic schools promote high academic expectations and how religious studies stand as the cornerstone of a rigorous Catholic Schools curriculum.”*



Dr. Delma L.  
JOSEPHSON

*Superintendent of Schools*

*“Through the generosity of many, careful use of very limited resources, and with God’s grace, much has been accomplished in these most challenging economic times.”*

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# FAITH • ACADE

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“Faith, Academics, and Service” is the theme that the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has chosen for Catholic Schools Week 2012. It’s an appropriate theme because it summarizes the three essential elements that distinguish Catholic schools from all others.

Catholic schools exist to provide a Christ-centered educational setting that simply cannot be duplicated in other schools. As children of a loving God, students come to understand that they possess a human dignity which manifests itself in a deeper respect for parents, for each other, and for every person they encounter. Catholic schools emphasize the fact that life has a purpose and that we are all called upon to strive for excellence in fulfilling God’s will through the teachings of the Church. Within that setting, Catholic students are taught to recognize the presence of Christ in themselves as well as in others.

It is a joy to watch how our Catholic schools promote high academic expectations and how religious studies stand as the cornerstone of a rigorous Catholic schools curriculum. It comes as no surprise then that Catholic high school graduation rates are consistently at or close to 100% and that Catholic school students tend to score significantly higher than their public school counterparts in standardized tests.

Within the scope of their religious instruction, students deepen their faith through receiving the Eucharist and in daily lessons from the Gospel. For Catholic school students, therefore, service is an expression of faith through the performance of good works. Because of that understanding, Catholic school students are deeply involved in a wide variety of projects that reach out to the poor, to the sick, and to people in need within their respective communities. That developed habit of reaching out in the name of Christ carries on into adulthood as evidenced by the presence of so many Catholic School alumni involved in parish activities and who are in leadership positions.

So it is that this *Catholic Schools Annual Report 2011* provides me with a special opportunity to express my personal gratitude to the countless numbers of parents and grandparents, students, teachers and administrators, alumni, and clergy as well as to our many benefactors who make the Catholic schools in the Diocese of Worcester true models of “Faith, Academics, and Service.”

With every prayerful wish, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Robert J. McManus, S.T.D.  
Bishop of Worcester

# MICS • SERVICE

It has been a year full of progress in a variety of areas. As I reflect on the theme of “Faith, Academics, and Service” and consider how best to continue to move forward, several actions and initiatives deserve mention.

Faith is truly the cornerstone of what we do in Catholic schools. We strive to model the Gospel message and reflect in our actions that each person is a child of God. The work we do today will continue to build on the great works of the men and women religious and clergy who have served our schools for generations. This year, our high schools have begun to implement a new religious education curriculum framework. This framework is designed to help students develop the skills to answer or address the real questions they face in life.

Two secular publications speak to the value of Catholic education. A May article in the *New York Times* and an October article in *Education Week* clearly address the value of the Catholic schools model. However, what must be remembered is that the reason the Catholic schools model works is because it is faith-based.

Why have parents in over 90 communities and 3 other states chosen our schools in the Diocese of Worcester as the right place to educate their children? I believe it is in great part because Catholic schools have been and continue to be recognized for their academic excellence. The chart included in this report on the nationally normed Terra Nova test results for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, our 100% graduation rate, and close to 100% college acceptance rate is hard data that speaks to that excellence.

Service, while a fairly recent focus in public education, has always been a part of the mission of Catholic schools. It is not something that needed to be added in or required; it is who we are. Our school communities generously provide talent, time, and treasure to address the needs of others throughout the school year.

Other initiatives highlight our commitment to providing a high-quality education. This year, all Catholic school teachers and administrators took part in curriculum training based on the most recent research of best practices in teaching and learning. We began piloting a curriculum mapping program that will begin being fully implemented in 2012.

Through the generosity of many, careful use of very limited resources, and with God’s grace, much has been accomplished in these most challenging economic times. It is with gratitude to those that make Catholic education possible that I present this report.

Sincerely,



Delma L. Josephson, Ph.D.  
Superintendent

## Our *dedicated* teachers



*If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well.*

– Romans 12:7

By looking at the joy and enthusiasm on his face as he teaches, you quickly realize that Mr. Joseph Burke teaches as if this passage from Romans was his personal mission statement. He uses his gift to serve others and his professional training as an educator to teach well. Having retired in June after 41 years in education (22 of those years at Holy Name), he continues to contribute to fostering a love for music and developing musical skills among his students by teaching one day per week. Mr. Burke is a remarkable, faith-filled, and highly respected teacher.

Our Catholic elementary and high schools throughout the Diocese are filled with many wonderful teachers who, like Mr. Burke, are prepared as twenty-first century educators, love their work, and commit to the mission of the Church by giving generously of their time and talents.



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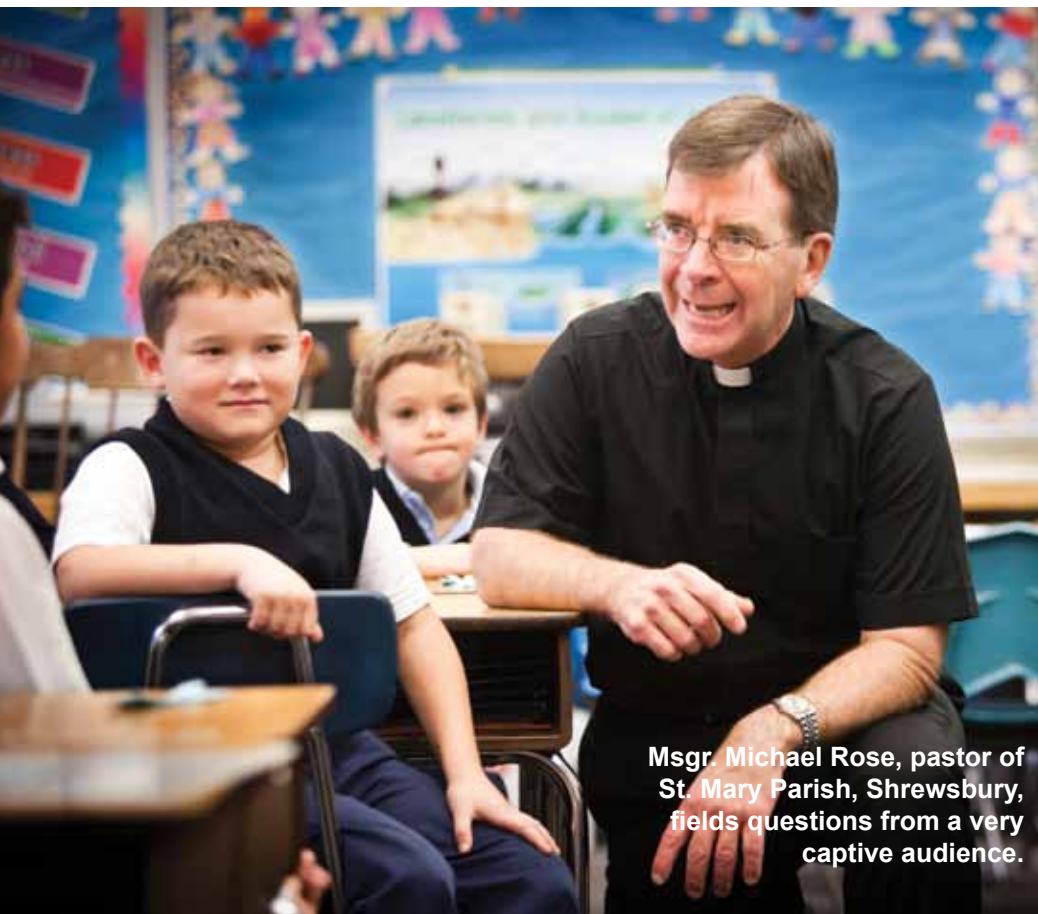
# FAITH

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Catholic schools are distinctive from other schools in that they focus on the development of each individual as a child of God. This includes education in regards to life and faith as well as action and social justice.



Religious studies stand as an essential guiding element of a curriculum that fosters intellectual, physical, social, emotional, and spiritual development. The characteristics of the Catholic faith permeate the entire school community through the liturgy, prayer services, and sacraments.



**Msgr. Michael Rose, pastor of St. Mary Parish, Shrewsbury, fields questions from a very captive audience.**

## PASTOR INVOLVEMENT

Pastors at Catholic schools are an integral part of the educational process. Deeply involved in the complete education and spiritual development of students throughout the year, pastors play a critical role in presenting authentic Catholic doctrine and by insuring an active sacramental life for students.

In the past year, Catholic school students received advanced preparation for the changes in the celebration of the Mass from their pastors in keeping with the new English translation of the Roman Missal.



Catholic schools are recognized for fielding good athletic teams and for advancing good sportsmanship. Intramural and interscholastic sports programs are intended to enhance the values of Catholic education. Win or lose, Catholic school athletes play hard but respect the rules of the game. Moreover, talented athletes are expected to be models of good conduct to their peers.

Catholic schools develop the whole person. Athletics teach students how to work with others while developing self-confidence. Sports programs in Catholic schools demand high standards of performance and behavior both on and off the field.

### Score 6 Points for Patrick!



Every student is important in Catholic schools. That point was made when Patrick Myshrall, a student at St. Peter-Marian Central Catholic Jr.-Sr. High School with Down's syndrome,

was warmly welcomed on the school's football team where he helped coach Tom Henrickson through the season.

Patrick's service to his school was rewarded when he was sent in to play during the last 2 minutes of the game with rival Doherty. Patrick was allowed to score six points to the standing cheers of the entire crowd of 1,500 fans.

*Photo courtesy of Christine Peterson, The Worcester Telegram*



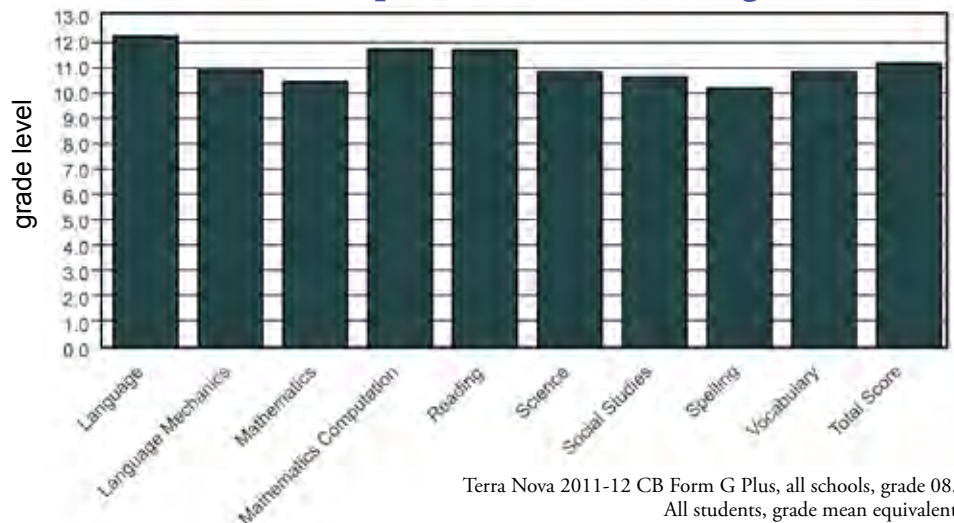
# ACADEMICS

Academic excellence is often a distinguishing characteristic of Catholic schools.

The culture of learning includes high expectations in intellectual achievement and in analytical skills from every student. Challenging AP course work is also available at every diocesan high school to help students gain confidence as well as to experience academic success.

Moreover, Catholic schools in the Diocese of Worcester enjoy collaborative partnerships with local Catholic colleges, such as Anna Maria, Assumption, and Holy Cross. These colleges provide programs designed to continually update curriculum, instruction, assessment, and effective governance.

Test data show that our 8<sup>th</sup> graders perform well above grade level.



Terra Nova 2011-12 CB Form G Plus, all schools, grade 08. All students, grade mean equivalent

## A PASSION FOR THE ARTS

Students are encouraged to pursue their passion for both the performing and fine arts. Musical and dramatic activities are highlighted at public productions, and student art is exhibited in school as well as in public showings. These are standard features during the school year.

Julianne Foisy, a senior at St. Peter-Marian Central Catholic Jr.-Sr. High School, made a point of using her talent in art to demonstrate the importance of caring for the poor. Her entry into a national art contest sponsored by the Catholic Campaign for Human Development featured a twisted wire representing a person holding someone else's heart. Julianne said, "It's our social responsibility to take care of each other." The entry won first place in the visual arts category and second place in the national contest.

## GRADUATION RATES

In still another mark of excellence, our Catholic high schools reported a graduation rate of 100% during the 2010–2011 academic year.



School	College Acceptance Rate
St. Peter-Marian Central Catholic Jr.-Sr. High School	100%
Holy Name Central Catholic Jr.-Sr. High School	100%
St. Bernard's Central Catholic High School	100%
St. Mary High School	100%
Saint John's High School	100%
Notre Dame Academy	100%

## PROFESSIONAL GROWTH FOR TEACHERS

Catholic school teachers in the Diocese of Worcester are all actively engaged in professional development programs designed to enrich teaching and learning. Special opportunities are also available for teachers through courses during the school year and through the summer. One of those special educational opportunities involved 29 elementary school teachers who participated in a rigorous 80-hour Intel math course.



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# SERVICE

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“What good is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or a sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day, and one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well,’ but you do not give them the necessities of the body, what good is it? So also faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead.”

*James 2:14-17*



Catholic schools support a wide array of community service projects as an expression of faith. Gently worn winter coats, hats, mittens, and scarves are collected during the school year and delivered to poor and needy children through My Father’s Table, Little Wanderers, and Catholic Charities.

During the Christmas season, Catholic school students make a special effort at collecting gifts. St. Peter Central Catholic Elementary School alone contributed nearly 100 food baskets filled with non-perishable goods as well as turkeys to feed families.

Outreach, however, is not limited by season or by geography. Community service projects in all Catholic schools throughout the year provide assistance to social service agencies, such as the Salvation Army and the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Similarly, Catholic school students provide support for the missions and participate in special projects such as Shoes for Haiti.

## VOLUNTEERS

Catholic schools are family institutions in which the many stakeholders are invited to play a part in keeping with their talents. Volunteers find ways of lending a hand in everything from passing out milk and assisting teachers to serving as chaperones at school functions or working on boards and committees. Indeed, volunteer activities make a deep and lasting impression on students as to the importance of service.





## Diocesan Catholic School Board Members

Mrs. Mary Lou Anderson, Ph.D., Chair  
 Mr. Paul Covino  
 Rev. Stephen M. Gemme  
 Mr. Timothy Griffin  
 Mrs. Carmelita Johnson  
 Rev. Peter Joyce  
 Ms. Margaret A. Kirkendall  
 Mrs. Patricia Marmen  
 Mrs. Margaret McKenna  
 Mr. M. Marcus Moran, Jr.  
 Mrs. Elizabeth W. Morse, Esq.  
 Ms. Barbara Nealon  
 Mrs. Patricia A. Smith  
 Ms. Barbara Spence, Ph.D.  
 Mr. David E. Surprenant, Esq.

# THANK YOU

## HOW YOUR GENEROSITY HELPED

In the 2010–2011 school year, 627 students received a total of \$1,016,043.00 in financial aid from three scholarship funds:

Partners in Charity .....	\$350,000.00
Forward in Faith .....	\$454,878.00
Adopt-A-Student .....	\$211,165.00

This support represented 26% of their total financial need.

In addition, 512 Central Catholic school students received assistance in the amount of \$1,317,826.00 from individual school scholarship programs. Parish, regional, and independent Catholic schools also provided assistance.

## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SAVE WORCESTER COUNTY TAXPAYERS MONEY

Town/City	Total Students from Town/City	Cost per Student by Town/City	Savings to Town/City from Students Choosing Catholic School
Fitchburg	322	\$12,747.00	\$4,104,534.00
Gardner	319	\$11,058.00	\$3,527,502.00
Leominster	447	\$11,373.00	\$5,083,731.00
Milford	213	\$11,980.00	\$2,551,740.00
Millbury	74	\$12,410.00	\$918,340.00
Northborough	249	\$12,035.00	\$2,996,715.00
Shrewsbury	726	\$13,105.00	\$9,514,230.00
Southbridge	148	\$13,368.00	\$1,978,464.00
Uxbridge	138	\$11,245.00	\$1,551,810.00
Webster	370	\$11,721.00	\$4,336,770.00
Worcester	1,936	\$12,906.00	\$24,986,016.00
Other*	2,624	\$12,177.00	\$31,952,448.00
Total annual taxpayer savings			\$93,502,300.00

\*The "other" refers to the total number of students attending Catholic schools from other cities and towns.

## Locate a Catholic School



To find a school near you, please visit [www.WorcesterDiocese.org/Schools](http://www.WorcesterDiocese.org/Schools) and learn more about our schools and their locations with the interactive map.



## Mission Statement

The Catholic Schools Office provides leadership, counsel, and administrative support to the Diocese of Worcester Catholic schools. Catholic schools in the Diocese of Worcester form an educational system, which proclaims the existence of God to the greater community. By providing space and time for the holy and sacred, our Catholic schools encourage their students to develop a relationship with God. United with the Bishop of Worcester and strengthened by a commitment to the Gospel message, systematic religious instruction, and a tradition of academic excellence, our Catholic schools provide an education that forms and prepares men and women of character and intellect, confident of their mission and ability to transform the world.