

A Tradition of Excellence A Vision for the Future



ANNUAL REPORT 2009
Diocese of Worcester Catholic Schools



“The intent of our Catholic schools has always been the passing on of the Catholic faith in an educational setting where the whole child can be educated.”

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A Tradition of Excellence

This year, as I present to you the Catholic Schools Annual Report, I would like to remind you of the tradition of excellence that our Catholic schools have in the Diocese of Worcester. Catholic schools in the United States of America have been serving students and families dating back to 1880. Catholic schools were opened as an alternative for immigrants to counteract the anti-Catholic sentiment that was prevalent at the time. The intent of our Catholic schools has always been the passing on of the Catholic faith in an educational setting where the whole child can be educated. For the past 130 years, the schools in Worcester County have proudly offered a holistic education with emphasis on developing spirituality and promoting the Gospel. The daily study of the Catholic religion in all grades in our Catholic schools serves to educate the minds and inform the consciences of the students.

Addressing Catholic school leaders at The Catholic University of America in 2008, His Holiness, Pope Benedict XIV stated, “Education is integral to the mission of the Church to proclaim the Good News. First and foremost every Catholic education institution is a place to encounter the living God who in Jesus Christ reveals his transforming love and truth.” Our schools have a proud history of putting the “living God” before everything else, preserving our Catholic identity and continuing a tradition of excellence that is unmatched in today’s culture.

I wish to express my gratitude to everyone who has been part of the journey of teaching as Jesus did: parents, grandparents, educators, clergy, institutes of higher learning and philanthropists. Your participation has served to ensure that Catholic schools will continue this tradition into a future full of hope and vision.

I wish you a New Year filled with peace, joy, happiness and prayer,

With every prayerful best wish, I remain
Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus, STD
Bishop of Worcester



Our Catholic Schools

prepare 7,983 students
for a constantly changing world

steeped in tradition, embracing the future

Catholic schools in the Diocese of Worcester have a long history of providing an excellent Catholic education. Steeped in tradition, Catholic schools continue to provide an outstanding Catholic education that is reflected in the daily activities and programs offered to students in Pre-K through grade 12. An in-depth look at the schools across the Diocese reveals several noteworthy programs and activities that are rich in tradition and visionary in nature. They reflect the technologically advanced, global society that we live in where our students are likely to have friends across the globe. As we prepare our students for a constantly changing world, our schools must continually embrace a vision for the future while developing programs and services that reflect that vision.

eliminating bullying in our high schools

Lily Stairs, a senior at **Holy Name Central Catholic Jr./Sr. High School** in Worcester, is aware of the unique challenges that face teenagers in today's global society. She understands the human need to be accepted and the impact that negative peer pressure can have on students. She has read about cyber-bullying and has observed the negative impact of bullying and teasing on students.

Lily was motivated to action by forming a student leadership group aptly named SMASH — Stop the Madness and Severe Hating. The intent is to eliminate all bullying and teasing in the school and to develop coping skills among the student body. The group explores the power of positive peer pressure and provides a safe outlet for victims of bullying to share their feelings. Local public schools are looking to replicate the program in their schools.



Carrying on a Tradition of Caring in our Catholic Schools

When tragedy strikes, Catholic school communities come together to help. The **St. Peter-Marian Jr./Sr. HS** community came together this fall to support Addison Russell, who graduated from the school in June 2006 and was looking forward to college in the fall. Tragedy struck and Addison was seriously injured that August just before entering college. Thankfully, Addison survived the accident but spent the next three years in rehabilitation and nursing homes.

Recently, Addison came home to a specially designed house that meets his needs. The St. Peter-Marian community reached out to support him three years after his graduation and raised enough money to purchase an advanced pulley system that he needed.

“SMASH embodies what Holy Name is about, promoting respect for others and having the courage to do the right thing.”

— Mr. Edward Reynolds,
HNCCHS Headmaster.



“I want to ensure that our vision for the schools in the Diocese is forward thinking and includes all aspects of educating the whole child. Our students must be prepared to succeed in a global society that readily embraces change.”

Elementary Schools

Diocesan Elementary School

WORCESTER

St. Peter Central Catholic Elementary

Mrs. Meg Kursonis, headmaster
865 Main Street
508-791-6496
Pre-K - Grade 8

Parish Elementary Schools

FITCHBURG

St. Anthony Elementary

Rev. Robert D. Brusso, pastor
Mr. John Ginnity, principal
123 Salem Street
978-345-7785
Pre-K - Grade 8

St. Bernard Elementary

Rev. H. Edward Chalmers, pastor
Mr. David Farnsworth, principal
254 Summer Street
978-342-1948
Pre-K - Grade 8

GARDNER 01440

Our Lady of the Rosary Elementary

Rev. Brian P. O'Toole, pastor
Dr. Paul Damour, principal
99 Nichols Street
978-632-8656
Pre-K - Grade 8

Sacred Heart Elementary

Rev. Brian P. O'Toole, pastor
Mrs. Maureen Lapan, principal
53 Lynde Street
978-632-0950
K - Grade 8

LEOMINSTER 01453

St. Anna Elementary

Rev. James B. Callahan, pastor
Mrs. Danielle Colvert, principal
213 Lancaster Street
978-534-4770
Pre-K - Grade 8

St. Leo Elementary

Rev. Msgr. John E. Doran, pastor
Mrs. Carolyn Polselli, principal
118 Main Street
978-537-1007
Pre-K - Grade 8

MILLBURY 01527

Assumption Elementary

Rev. Richard A. Fortin, pastor
Dr. Rita Bernard, principal
17 Grove Street
508-865-5404
Pre-K - Grade 8

(listing continued on pg. 8)

A Vision for the Future

It is my pleasure to present to you the Catholic Schools Annual Report for the school year 2008–2009. This August, I began my first year of ministry as leader of the Catholic schools in the Diocese. I am excited to be here and to participate with you in the faith journey, a journey that breathes new life into education and infuses meaning and value to the purpose of our lives.

Our Catholic schools are steeped in tradition and history going back over 130 years. Catholic schools in Worcester County have played a major role in evangelization, educating our youth in the Catholic tradition and spreading the Gospel's Good News. We are blessed to have such great Catholic schools in the Diocese of Worcester and I am proud to be part of a rich tradition that continues to offer a stellar education with a strong sense of Catholic identity.

I am grateful to you for your commitment to the mission of Catholic education in the Diocese of Worcester. I look forward to developing a shared vision for the future of our schools. This vision will embrace and reflect the global society that we live in and address Catholic identity, academics, evangelization, and other factors that are important to the viability of our schools and to the future success of our students. I want to ensure that our vision for the schools in the Diocese is forward thinking and includes all aspects of educating the whole child. Our students must be prepared to succeed in a global society that readily embraces change.

Our pastors have done an incredible job providing leadership and support to the Catholic schools in the Diocese. I look forward to working with them and to getting to know their church communities so that the Catholic Schools Office can offer leadership and support in the areas that are critical to the future of our Catholic schools in the Diocese.

Thank you for your warm welcome and for your on-going support as together we work to bring our shared vision for our Catholic schools to fruition.

Sincerely,

Delma L. Josephson, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Catholic Schools, Diocese of Worcester



Our Students

innovators, leaders, peacemakers



finding inner peace and promoting diversity

Innovation and creativity are words to describe the work of the National Junior Honor Society at **Trinity Catholic Academy** in Southbridge. Mrs. Madeleine Brouillard, principal, identified eight different languages spoken in her school each with a unique set of cultural traditions. She wanted to celebrate the diversity reflected in the school community and promote peace and respect for all ethnic groups locally and globally. She shared her thoughts with the members of the National Junior Honor Society and the group proposed a Peace Garden. The students coordinated the entire project. The entire school community participated in the creation of the Peace Garden by planting flowers and shrubs and adding rocks with personal messages of peace. A large pole at the center of the garden boldly displays

“May Peace Prevail on Earth” in the eight languages. “As educational leaders, we must pay attention to the needs of the whole child and ensure that we respond in ways that empower the student body and engage the community at large.” commented Mrs. Brouillard.

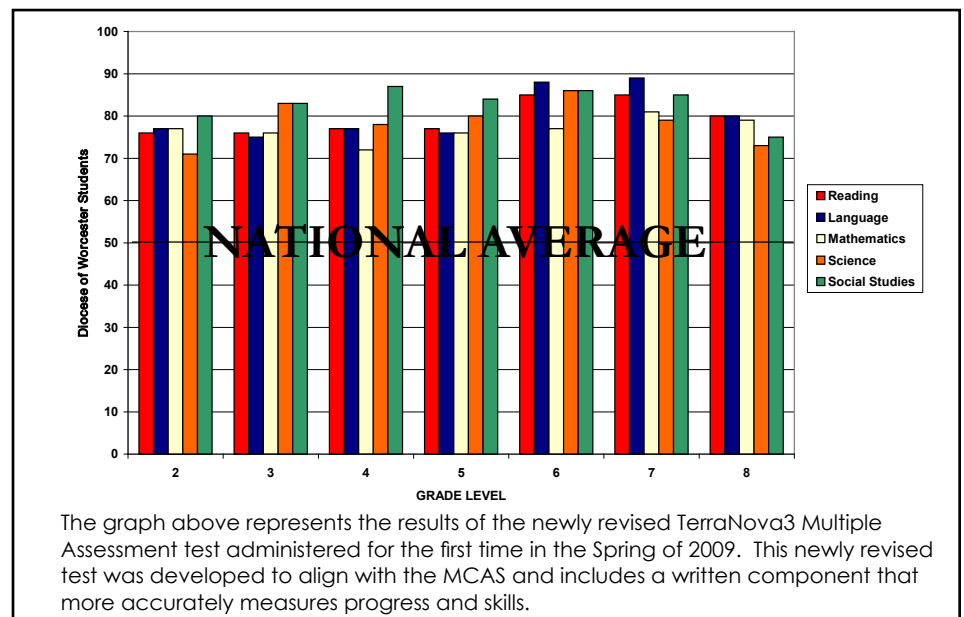
celebrating success presidential style

Raziel Edward Shields will graduate from **St. Bernard’s Central Catholic High School** in Fitchburg this June with a Presidential Appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point. Raziel is one of only one hundred young men nation-wide receiving this prestigious honor. “I am grateful to my parents for choosing a Catholic education. Being part of the St. Bernard school community has equipped me with the skills I will need to succeed

in college,” commented Mr. Shields. West Point is renowned as the world’s premier leader development institution. West Point accomplishes its mission by developing cadets intellectually, physically, militarily, ethically, spiritually, and socially. “Educating the whole child is at the core of our mission at St. Bernard’s. We are very proud of Raziel’s accomplishments and we look forward to tracking his future successes,” noted Mr. James Conry, headmaster.



DISTINCTION



The graph above represents the results of the newly revised TerraNova3 Multiple Assessment test administered for the first time in the Spring of 2009. This newly revised test was developed to align with the MCAS and includes a written component that more accurately measures progress and skills.

Catholic Schools Embrace

ensuring our students are at the cutting edge of advancement



Our Lady of the Angels Elementary School in Worcester has made great strides in integrating technology across the curriculum. Using mobile laptop carts, students and teachers have access to the Internet in the classroom. Each classroom is equipped with projectors that support the development and presentation of interactive lessons. "Being able to utilize all the resources available on the Internet has improved learning outcomes for the students at OLA. Teachers develop lessons online, and tests and homework assignments can also be completed online," boasted Mrs. Doreen Albert, principal.

Catholic school leaders in the Diocese of Worcester understand that science and technology are advancing at an unprecedented rate. Our schools must respond to these changes if we are to address the demands that will be placed on our graduates when they enter the workforce.

Content information is readily available at the click of a mouse and Web sites abound with knowledge on all subject areas. Our Catholic schools are actively seeking to secure financial resources to equip each classroom with internet access, interactive whiteboards, and laptops for every student. The ultimate goal is to ensure that teachers can educate their students on how to effectively navigate the Internet, access

knowledge, and utilize the myriad of software applications that support teaching and learning. Having the ability to take advantage of distance learning opportunities and other interactive media will complement the learning experience and ensure that Catholic school graduates are at the cutting edge of advancements in science and technology.

For the past two years, administrators and science teachers have been working with science experts from Boston College developing a science curriculum for the Pre-K through grade 8 schools. The curriculum is standards-based and aligned with the Massachusetts Science and Technology/Engineering Curriculum Frameworks and the American Association for the Advancement of Science Benchmarks for Science Literacy. The curriculum is currently being piloted in the St. Paul Catholic Schools Consortium schools.



Technology

ment in science and technology

St. Anna Elementary School, Leominster is prioritizing the integration of technology across all content areas. The school will be phasing in a laptop-based model of instruction that will readily facilitate an increase in curriculum-based technology integration activities. "Our vision is to provide teachers with "Best Practices" in technology integration to support teaching and learning across all grade levels," promised Mrs. Danielle Colvert, principal.

“ If our graduates are to be competitive in this global society, our schools must utilize all the technologies available to improve learning outcomes.”

Mrs. Deborah O'Neil, principal
St. Bernadette Elementary School

St. Bernadette Elementary School in Northboro embraces the latest in technology and training. The school community has prioritized technology upgrades and, thanks to an anonymous donor, the school recently doubled its capacity for all students to have access to laptops and the Internet. The goal is for each student to have access to the content-rich Internet, and with teacher direction build their skills. Using Smart Boards, LCD projectors and a mobile cart of 25 MAC computers, teachers are able to utilize online resources to

complement their lessons. In addition, students have immediate access to supplementary learning materials and resources that had not previously been available inside the classroom. To ensure optimal utilization of the equipment in the school, professional development is being offered throughout the year. Mrs. Meghan Gasek, diocesan technology guest instructor and teacher at St. Bernadette School, is in charge of coordinating the training for school personnel.

St. Mary Elementary School, Shrewsbury was the beneficiary of an anonymous gift to support the purchase of technology hardware in the school. The school has two mobile laptop carts that are used in the classrooms. Teachers use Smart Boards and LCD projectors to enhance the learning experience across all curricular areas.

"Having access to the Internet and software applications has enhanced the learning experience for the students."

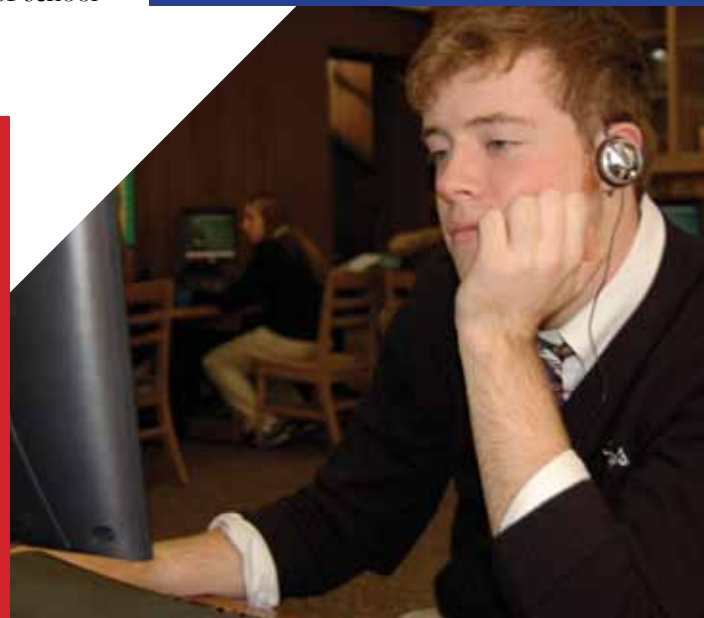
Ms. Joan Barry, principal.



Our Lady of the Valley Regional School, Uxbridge received a grant from the Diocese that was matched by a local bank. The funds were used to purchase laptops for each middle school student. The impact of having access to the Internet and a variety of software applications has enhanced the teaching and learning experience.

Most assignments are completed using a word processor and submitted electronically to the teachers. Students apply their PowerPoint and Excel skills to complete laboratory reports and create presentations. Students are learning how to communicate ideas effectively using a variety of media.

COMMUNITY



(listing continued from pg. 2)

NORTHBORO 01532

St. Bernadette Elementary
 Rev. Stephen M. Gemme, pastor
 Mrs. Deborah O'Neil, principal
 266 Main Street
 508-351-9905
 Pre-K - Grade 8

SHREWSBURY 01545

St. Mary Elementary
 Rev. Msgr. Michael F. Rose, pastor
 Ms. Joan Barry, principal
 16 Summer Street
 508-842-1601
 Grades Pre-K - Grade 8

SOUTHBRIDGE 01550

Trinity Catholic Academy
 Rev. Peter Joyce, pastor
 Mrs. Madeleine L. Brouillard, principal
 11 Pine Street
 508-765-5991
 Pre-K - Grade 8

WEBSTER 01570

St. Anne Elementary
 Rev. Michael J. Roy, pastor
 Sr. Constance Bayeur, SSA, principal
 12 Day Street-P.O. Box 818
 508-943-2735
 K - Grade 8

St. Joseph Elementary
 Rev. Msgr. Anthony S. Czarniecki, pastor
 Mr. Donald Cushing, principal
 47 Whitcomb Street
 508-943-0378
 Pre-K - Grade 8

St. Louis Elementary
 Rev. Joseph A. Marcotte, pastor
 Mrs. Katherine Kelly, principal
 48 Negus Street
 508-943-0257
 K - Grade 8

WORCESTER

O. L. Angels Elementary 01603
 Rev. Charles F. Manroe, pastor
 Mrs. Doreen Albert, principal
 1220 Main Street
 508-752-5609
 Pre-K - Grade 8

St. Mary Elementary 01610
 Rev. Thaddeus X. Stachura, pastor
 Mrs. Corey Maloney, principal
 50 Richland Street
 508-753-0484
 K - Grade 6

St. Stephen Elementary 01604
 Rev. Joseph M. Nally, pastor
 Ms. Elizabeth Drake, principal
 55 Grafton Street
 508-755-3209
 Pre-K - Grade 8

Regional Elementary Schools

MILFORD 01757

Milford Catholic Elementary
 Rev. Richard A. Sciolli, CSS, pastor
 Rev. Daniel R. Mulchy, Jr, pastor
 Ms. Andrea Tavaska, principal
 11 East Main Street
 508-473-7303
 Pre-K - Grade 6

UXBRIDGE 01569

Our Lady of the Valley Regional
 Rev. Steven M. LaBaire, pastor
 Rev. James F. Carmody, pastor
 Rev. Lawrence J. Esposito, pastor
 Rev. C. Michael Broderick, pastor
 Marilyn Willand, principal
 75 Mendon Street
 508-278-5851
 K - Grade 8

Private Schools

WORCESTER 01605

Mercy Center
 Heather McDonald, administrator
 25 West Chester Street
 508-852-7165

Venerini Academy
 Sr. Sandra Napier, SND, principal
 23 Edward Street
 508-753-3210
 Pre-K - Grade 8

Secondary Schools Diocesan Junior and Senior High Schools

Holy Name Central Catholic Jr./Sr. High School
 Mr. Edward Reynolds, headmaster
 Roy Greenwood, principal - senior high
 Mrs. Arlene Maurello, principal - junior high
 144 Granite Street
 Worcester, MA 01604
 508-753-6371
 Grades 7-12

St. Bernard's Central Catholic High School
 Mr. James Conry, headmaster
 Mr. Robert Blanchard, principal
 45 Harvard Street
 Fitchburg, MA 01420
 978-342-3212
 Grades 9-12

St. Peter-Marian Central Catholic Jr./Sr. High School
 Mr. Matthew Sturgis, headmaster
 Denise Allain - principal- senior high
 Mrs. Joanne Ethier, principal - junior high
 781 Grove Street
 Worcester, MA 01605
 508-852-5555 - high school
 508-438-0954 - junior high school
 Grades 7-12

Parish Junior and Senior High Schools

St. Mary Junior-Senior High School
 Rev. Thaddeus X. Stachura, headmaster
 Mr. Michael Dudek, principal
 40 Richland Street
 Worcester, MA 01610
 508-753-1170
 Grades 7-12

Private High Schools

Notre Dame Academy
 Sr. Anne Morrison, SND, principal
 425 Salisbury Street
 Worcester, MA 01609
 508-757-6200
 Grades 9-12

Notre Dame High School
 Mr. Jeffrey Hammond, headmaster
 151 South Street
 Fitchburg, MA 01420
 978-343-7635
 Grades 7-12

St. John High School
 Mr. Michael Welch, headmaster
 Dr. Jacob Conca, principal
 378 Main Street
 Shrewsbury, MA 01545
 508-842-8934
 Grades 9-12

Did You Know...

In the 2008–2009 school year, **1,281** students received a total of **\$1,150,860** in financial aid from the three scholarship funds:

- Partners in Charity (\$350,000)
- Forward in Faith (\$490,745)
- Adopt-A-Student (\$310,115)

This number represents **36%** of their total financial need. In addition to these scholarship programs, **1,290** Central Catholic School students' received additional financial assistance in the amount of **\$1,110,190**. Parish, regional, and private schools also offer in-house financial assistance.

Catholic High Schools in the Diocese have a **99.86%** graduation rate and **99.57%** college acceptance rate. The student body comprises **19%** non-Catholic and **15%** minority.

Catholic Schools Save Taxpayers Money

Community	Avg. Student Cost 06-07	Taxpayer Savings
Clinton	\$10,720	\$761,120
Fitchburg	\$11,351	\$5,425,778
Gardner	\$9,532	\$2,058,912
Leominster	\$10,283	\$5,449,990
Milford	\$10,556	\$1,435,616
Millbury	\$10,397	\$1,029,303
Northboro	\$10,709	\$1,306,498
Shrewsbury	\$9,093	\$4,191,873
Southbridge	\$12,626	\$2,411,566
Uxbridge	\$10,156	\$1,350,748
Webster	\$10,662	\$4,040,898
Worcester	\$12,377	\$24,296,051
Other*	\$10,705	\$22,994,340
Total		\$76,752,693

*The "other" refers to the total number of students attending Catholic schools from other cities and towns. The savings were calculated on an average per student cost.

Photography by Steve Kaufman

