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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We need Catholic schools now, maybe more than we ever have needed them. Catholic schools feed the soul of our nation. Our educators, principals, presidents, teachers and staff are shaping the future generation of the Catholic Church. Our students are disciples: our next priests, deacons, religious, lay leaders and, we hope, saints. Each student who walks our halls holds immeasurable promise, having been formed in the likeness of God.

For these reasons, it is our focus to strengthen Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and create communities that prepare our children for the rigors of this life and eternal life.

Please join me as we celebrate, give thanks and pray for the success of our Catholic schools.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend Jerome E. Listecki
Archbishop of Milwaukee

Dear Friends,

Each Catholic school in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, regardless of size, demographics or location, aspires toward excellence in all aspects of school life. This 2016 – 2017 Annual Report is organized around the four major themes of the National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Schools—Mission and Catholic Identity, Governance and Leadership, Academic Excellence and Operational Vitality—and highlights schools in various regions of the archdiocese that excel in the implementation of those ideals.

There’s no doubt that our Catholic schools are characterized by strong academic achievements, students’ safety and positive discipline. Most importantly, however, our schools exude a Catholic ethos and culture. In them, at every level, the Gospel is taught in word and action. We are committed to serving others without distinction and to creating communities rich in prayer and love.

Wherever we are and whatever we do, we strive to remember that we are one body in Christ, fulfilling His instruction: “Go, and make disciples of all.”

Grateful that we are one in Christ,

Kathleen A. Cepelka, Ph.D.,
Superintendent of Catholic Schools
From kindergarten through high school, we shape students’ Catholic identity inside and outside the classroom.
Mission and Catholic Identity

The highest priority of Catholic schools is to invite our students into an authentic relationship with Jesus Christ. From kindergarten through high school, we shape students’ Catholic identity inside and outside the classroom. Our curriculum ensures that the Church’s sacramental life is fully explained and richly experienced, with teachings, celebrations, rituals and activities to form students, teachers, leaders and parents as members of the body of Christ.

Such faith-based experiences characterize St. John the Baptist School in Plymouth and enabled the school to earn archdiocesan Exemplary Recognition in Mission & Catholic Identity for the 2015-16 school year. Parents who are new to the school are welcomed and oriented with a focus on the school’s mission and invited into parish life from the start. The school is exceptional in its integration of Catholic social teachings into all aspects of its culture, including artistic Scripture messaging on the school walls. As St. John’s school leaders tell the world, “The Spirit makes the difference.”
Successful Catholic schools require strong leaders.
Successful Catholic schools require strong leaders. Seasoned, knowledgeable and collaborative principals, presidents and boards can together help to guarantee that every student has access to high quality, faith-filled education.

Marquette University’s Institute for Catholic Leadership offers a valuable local resource for such leadership formation. In the 2016-2017 school year, the pastors, principals and board members of 24 of our schools engaged in training sessions, consultations and long-term strategic planning aimed at empowering them to effectively carry out the mission of Catholic education.

Six Catholic schools east of I-94 in Racine have united under a unique governance and leadership model. The new Siena Catholic Schools of Racine system uses an archbishop > president > board model to advance curriculum, technology, facilities and communications. This K-12th grade system, supported by 10 local parishes and serving 1,300 students, is the culmination of years of planning, research and prayer.
Academic Excellence

For 175 years, the Archdiocese of Milwaukee has been known for providing high quality education, and that reputation continues to grow. As an example of ongoing academic strength and growth, our Catholic schools have rapidly adopted STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) and related programs into their curricular and co-curricular instruction and activities.

Last year, St. Charles Catholic Community of Hartland invested $12 million into the parish and school facilities, including a dedicated STEM lab for students, a music room and an addition to the worship space of the parish. This investment continues the Catholic school tradition of classroom excellence and ensures that students are comprehensively prepared for the future.

The archdiocese this year expanded the offerings of its Discovery Project, a program which combines online and in-person high school instruction for Catholic school students in grades 7 and 8 who are academically gifted. Students are challenged in English, language arts and mathematics, through nearly a dozen courses delivered by five partnering Catholic high schools. In the 2016-2017 school year, more than 110 students in our elementary schools have benefited from this program. Since its inception in 2009, more than 1,200 students from 55 elementary schools have participated.

Advancing intellectual development WITH RIGOR & RELEVANCY
Families feel confident in their decision to invest in Catholic education.
Parents facing today’s socioeconomic challenges want their children’s education to be strong and their schools to be stable. The long-term viability and sustainability of Catholic schools requires a careful and responsible focus on a school’s operations, including its finances, human resources, facilities and advancement. Families recognize and appreciate such sound stewardship that enables them to feel confident about their decision to invest in Catholic education.

As the collaborative network of urban Catholic elementary schools in Milwaukee, Seton Catholic Schools, is working to welcome and develop teachers for Catholic education in new ways. In 2017, Seton’s recruitment service attracted nearly 400 teacher candidates and became the top employer for the Marquette University College of Education. This collaborative operational model provides hiring efficiencies and helps to ensure that new teachers are matched to best fit schools and positions.

In collaboration with the Choice Schools Association and the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, the Archdiocese of Milwaukee’s Office for Schools last year conducted four best-practices workshops on school accountability and fiscal practices. School leaders gained valuable insights into the benefits of Parental Choice for schools, local communities, and most importantly, prospective families. With three Parental Choice programs available – in Milwaukee, Racine and statewide – Catholic schools are truly affordable options.
We are committed to serving others without distinction and creating communities rich in prayer and love.
St. Mary Parish School - Menomonee Falls

LOCATION OF SCHOOLS

INNER CITY: 18
SUBURBAN: 38
URBAN: 28
RURAL: 23

SCHOOLS WITH Waiting Lists

TOTAL ENROLLMENT OF HIGH SCHOOLS

7,040
SEVEN THOUSAND
AND FOURTY

TOTAL ENROLLMENT OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

23,064

LIFE. LESSONS.

Elementary and Middle School
PROFESSIONAL STAFF
1996

SECONDARY SCHOOL
PROFESSIONAL STAFF
653

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
107

MISSION
Schools in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee are committed to educational excellence, student diversity and the fostering of a Catholic culture of faith, service and personal responsibility, all in the name of Jesus.

VISION
Catholic schools transform our local and global communities into centers of faith, hope and charity by providing quality Catholic education to all people.

SCHOOLS WITH
Waiting Lists

26

St. Mary Parish School - Menomonee Falls

23
We ensure our education reaches beyond the classroom.
Living the Mission

The mission of Catholic schools, embodied in the National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Schools, is alive and thriving throughout our archdiocese: in 107 schools, with 2,600 educators serving 31,000 students. We embrace these standards as ideals that guide the development of our schools’ faith formation programming, academic excellence and operational effectiveness. We are grateful for your support, as we strive to ensure that every student, in each of our excellent Catholic schools, is truly benefiting from an education for life.
Life. Lessons.