



Auxiliary Bishop
Archdiocese of Philadelphia

September 9, 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians:

As the school year begins each September, I always pray for you and ask the Lord to bless you for your selfless commitment to and support of Catholic education.

This year, as our nation faces rising unemployment, continuing economic uncertainty and the related tightening of family budgets, I wanted to reach out to you individually and express my deep and sincere appreciation for your continued investment in your child's education in the midst of these difficult times. We understand that countless numbers of families have made increasingly large sacrifices to maintain their choice of Catholic education and a learning environment rooted in Gospel values and academic excellence. Your heroic efforts for your children do not go unappreciated or unnoticed.

In return for your firm commitment to Catholic education, we will continue to work unremittingly to deliver a strong return on your investment in your children. Our teachers and our staff, who share my level of gratitude to you, return to school this year with a renewed commitment to providing the highest quality Catholic education to our students. They are energized and inspired by our most recent achievements, most notably, the all-time record high \$244 million awarded to our Archdiocesan Class of 2009 in college scholarship dollars.

On behalf of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and the Office of Catholic Education, please accept my gratitude for your continued confidence in our schools and the lifelong value that a Catholic education provides. You and your family are in my prayers for a successful and blessed school year.

Sincerely yours in Jesus,

Most Reverend Joseph P. McFadden
Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia

