

# Mission Statement

We affirm Catholic School education as one of the primary works of the Church of Ogdensburg to be supported through all parishes and diocesan institutions. We concern ourselves with Catholic School education Pre-K to 12 and call on other structures of the diocese to address Catholic education in its broadest sense to proclaim the Gospel for life-long personal growth, social development and faith formation in support of the mission of the Church.

## Mission

Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Ogdensburg promote and proclaim the Gospel message in the context of the Tradition and official teachings of the Catholic Church. Rooted in the humanities and sciences, they exhibit academic excellence and identify the uniqueness of their students. They foster a vision and desire in the students to develop as individuals and members of families and to continue life-long growth as Catholics and believers influencing society and the world.

## Philosophy

**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS PROMOTE AND PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL MESSAGE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE TRADITION AND OFFICIAL TEACHINGS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

- by proclaiming the Gospel and supporting the mission of the Church, bringing the Good News of Jesus Christ, His Person and His teachings in the form of evangelization, catechesis and example;
- by continuing to preserve the Catholic Identity, embracing its traditions, faith, ideals, practices, and family values through Liturgy, Scripture, Tradition, in a way that is both instructional and experiential and in unity with the magisterium of the Church;

- by promoting the Gospel values in a Christ-centered environment, building community, showing respect, reverence and responsibility motivating each one to service and by entering into prayer and worship;
- by administrative and staff selection that exhibits a concern that each person model and contribute to a faith commitment and experience.

## **CATHOLIC SCHOOLS EXHIBIT ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE**

- by forming the whole child in mind, body and spirit, while recognizing the dignity, uniqueness, and gifts of each child and by developing the gifts of each child to full potential
- by developing curriculum that is founded on the best that education, the human sciences and research have to offer, infusing these teachings with Catholic faith and moral reasoning;
- by providing a program that is holistic in its approach to growth and development, cognizant of developmental stages and learning styles;
- by generating programs that reflect the diversity of ability and needs to enable learning for all students;
- by enabling students to become critical thinkers, problem solvers and decision makers in order to assume leadership, and to live as responsible and informed citizens in the 21st century;
- by a teaching/learning process that will be accomplished with current textbooks and curriculum materials supported by appropriate technology and resources when available;
- by implementing the curriculum through highly qualified and trained personnel supported by a structured program of in-service and updating in content and methodology.

## **CATHOLIC SCHOOLS ARE ROOTED IN THE HUMANITIES AND SCIENCES AND IDENTIFY THE UNIQUENESS OF THEIR STUDENTS**

- by reverencing the dignity and oneness of all peoples of the earth, respecting the spiritualities, traditions, and languages unique to each;
- by creating growth and nourishing the spirit through awareness of and involvement in the fine and creative arts;
- by emphasizing the importance of cooperation and interdependence addressing the moral implications for the economy, ecology, culture, technology and governments;
- by providing a curriculum which will present a positive image of all people, regardless of race, creed, sex, or disabling conditions;
- by teaching and modeling non-violence in the school environment;
- by educating for peace, justice, self-giving and brotherhood and
- by focusing on needs of the poor; by remaining sensitive to persons with disabilities.

## **CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WILL FOSTER A VISION AND DESIRE IN THE STUDENTS TO DEVELOP AS INDIVIDUALS AND MEMBERS OF FAMILIES**

- by providing an integrated program and environment, building self-esteem and fostering mutual appreciation and respect supporting one another in dealing with real life issues and problems;
- by nurturing our students in an environment in which they are surrounded by love, laughter, security, and acceptance;
- by recognizing the primacy of the family as educator and by instituting programs to support the family in its role;
- by establishing a school environment that is welcoming to parents and incorporates them into the educational process;

- by utilizing the school and its resources as a center for family education and life-long learning opportunities;
- by responding creatively to the needs of family life by implementing supportive evangelization programs and services within the parish and school setting.

**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WILL FOSTER A VISION AND DESIRE IN THE STUDENTS TO CONTINUE LIFELONG GROWTH AS CATHOLICS AND BELIEVERS INFLUENCING SOCIETY AND THE WORLD**

- by inspiring students to live out the Gospel message so that they can be models of Christ-like living to others;
- by presenting a consciously counter-cultural vision in matter of worldly materialism, consumerism and false moral standards;
- by pursuing growth and formation which occur formally and informally, individually and communally, linking Catholic Tradition with life experience;
- by incorporating the Church's social teachings within each level of education and by involving students in projects of genuine service to others;
- by challenging students to leadership roles where they can make a difference in the lives of others by promoting justice equality and opportunity for all.

**+Paul S. Loverde  
Bishop of Ogdensburg**

**September 18, 1995**