



# THE DIOCESE OF KALAMAZOO

Office of the Bishop

January 25, 2015

Dear Catholic School Parents,

During this special time where we come together to observe the annual Catholic Schools Week, I offer my heartfelt thanks and appreciation for your support of Catholic school education in our diocese. The theme this year, "Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service," narrows our focus in on the goals of Catholic schools in providing the education your child needs in an environment that enriches their faith life. Without the support and dedication of our parents, this would not be possible for our more than 2,900 students.

As I visit our schools and engage with our students, it is clear we are the embodiment of faith, knowledge and service. I witness the faith in our students, the result of the hard work and dedication of our families and teachers working together. Your remarkable children give me great hope for the future of our Church and society.

In a recent homily, Pope Francis expressed how the Lord takes care of his children, as does a parent:

*God, like a good father and a good mother, wants to give good things to his children. And what is this nourishing food that God gives us? It is his Word: his Word makes us grow; it enables us to bear good fruit in life, just as the rain and snow imbue the earth, making it fruitful. Likewise you, parents, and you too godmothers and godfathers, grandparents, aunts and uncles, will help these children grow if you give them the Word of God, the Gospel of Jesus. And give it also by your example!" (Homily, Feast of the Baptism of the Lord)*

By raising your children in a strong Domestic Church and choosing a Catholic school for their education, you are giving them the nourishment they need to spread the good news and embody the New Evangelization.

I wish to thank you for choosing a Catholic school education for your child, and by providing for him or her a Domestic Church to support their education. Your efforts are crucial in their faith journey. I keep you, your Catholic school students and your families in my prayers, and hope your new year is blessed.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul J. Bradley".

Most Rev. Paul J. Bradley  
Bishop of Kalamazoo