



DIOCESE OF SCRANTON
300 WYOMING AVENUE
SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18503-1279

February 23, 2011

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Dear Catholic School Families:

On January 20, 2011, I publicly announced my commitment to create a stable, sustainable Catholic School System that is spiritually sound and academically excellent. If you have not yet taken advantage of the opportunity to listen to my announcement, it was recorded live and can be viewed on our Diocesan website: www.dioceseofscranton.org.

The message conveyed is simple: We will have Catholic school education in the Diocese of Scranton. I am committed to achieving this vision. My leadership team shares this commitment. However, we cannot afford to focus our efforts on maintaining buildings; we must commit ourselves to maintaining a Catholic School System. Now we need to know that you are with us. Registration for the 2011-2012 school year began on January 30th and will continue until March 4th. The configuration of our Catholic School System will be announced by April 15th. Enrollment is critical in determining this configuration.

As an alumnus of our Diocesan Catholic School System, I greatly appreciate what it provided me. At the same time, I understand and am sensitive to the sacrifice families make in order to send their children to Catholic School. As Bishop, I am aware of the economic challenges impacting our families and our parishes. Despite the challenges we face, I look to our future with hope and the knowledge that our foundation is strong. This is evident by the many achievements earned by our students. Within the past few weeks, we learned that several of our high school students have obtained the rank of National Merit Finalist; and, an elementary school science project is one of six from the entire nation that will be performed on the International Space Station this spring.

These few examples of success serve as reminders for us to remain diligent in our pursuit to educate and prepare our children to be faith-filled leaders and life-long learners dedicated to serving the Church and society. If you have not already done so, please register your children by the March 4th deadline as the number of children registered will guide us in configuring our Diocesan Catholic School System.

I thank you for the commitment you have shown in the past when you registered and entrusted your children to our Catholic Schools. I pray that you will continue this journey with us.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L.
Bishop of Scranton