



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Catholic Schools proudly and prominently display the following message:

***“Be it known to all who enter here that Christ is the reason for this school. He is the unseen but ever-present teacher in the classroom. He is the model of its faculty and the inspiration of its students.”***

Catholic Schools Week offers an annual opportunity to highlight the crucial importance of Catholic Education as well as its excellence in every respect. The first and primary goal of every Catholic school is to nurture in our students a life-long relationship with Jesus Christ in the Church. We know that a deep relationship with Christ in the Church grounds young people deeply in the One who created and redeemed them, the One who will sustain them throughout their lives and for eternity.

Our schools form disciples of the Lord who are well-prepared to meet any academic challenge. Standards set and achieved by Catholic schools are well-known and highly respected. The high quality of instruction in our schools, innovative approaches to the use of the latest technology, and a challenging curriculum prepare our students for every educational and vocational challenge they will face as the years go by.

Students of Catholic schools are also taught to be vibrant participants in the life of their communities, good citizens, good family members, and generous stewards of God’s gifts. A disciple of Jesus is one who serves – who keeps an open heart to those who suffer or who have any need, and who responds generously and lovingly.

Catholic schools reflect the light of Christ in a powerful way: they place a candle in children’s hands, and then God lights it with his Son. Catholic schools guard that light because they know it is only by that light that they will teach children the truth.

I happily celebrate Catholic Schools Week with all of you! If your children are not yet enrolled in one of our excellent Catholic schools, please consider doing so. You will not be disappointed!

With every best wish and prayer, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

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Most Rev. J. Peter Sartain  
Archbishop of Seattle