



Diocese of Orlando
Secretariat for Education

2020-2021 Annual Report



“Come, Follow Me.”

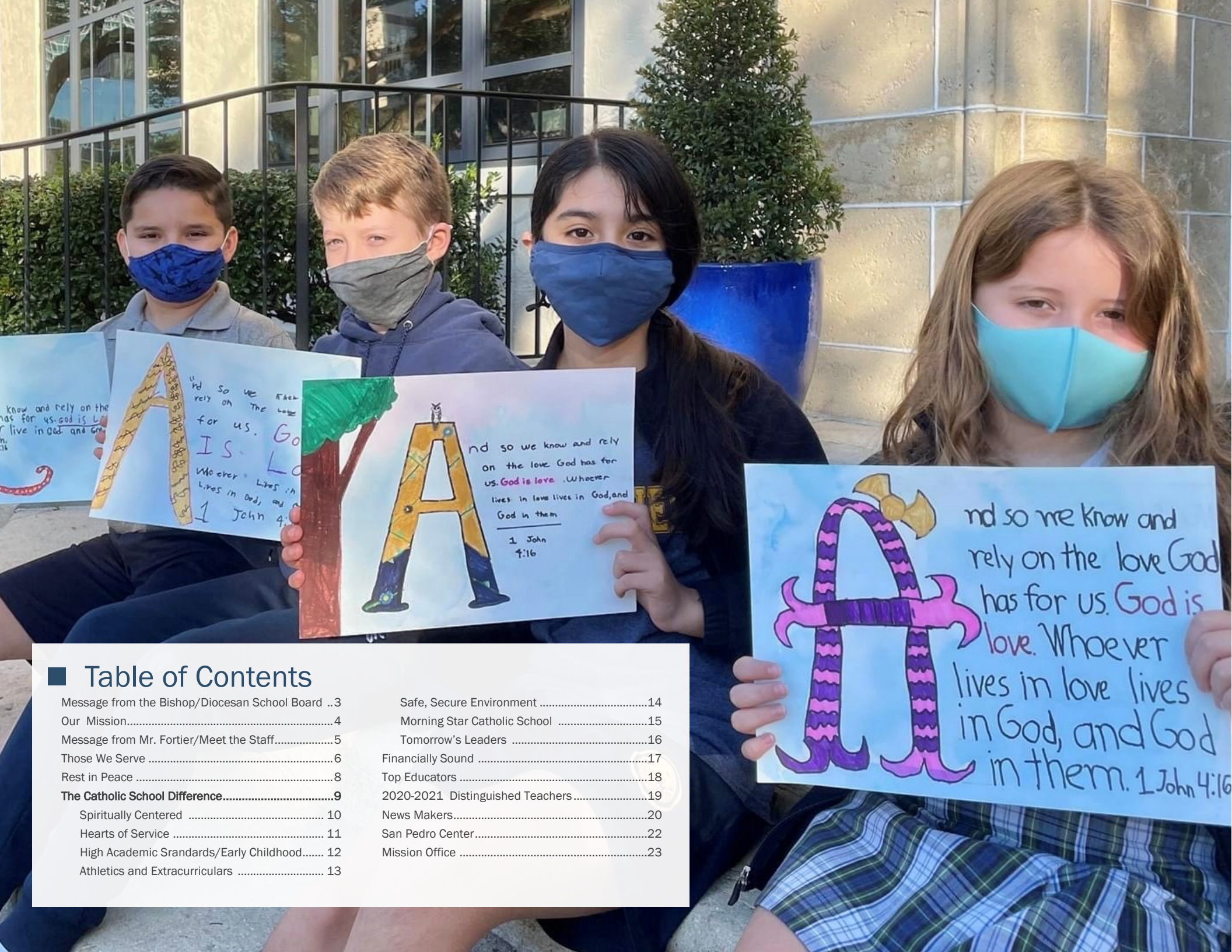


Table of Contents

Message from the Bishop/Diocesan School Board ...3	Safe, Secure Environment14
Our Mission.....4	Morning Star Catholic School15
Message from Mr. Fortier/Meet the Staff.....5	Tomorrow's Leaders16
Those We Serve6	Financially Sound17
Rest in Peace8	Top Educators18
The Catholic School Difference.....9	2020-2021 Distinguished Teachers.....19
Spiritually Centered 10	News Makers.....20
Hearts of Service 11	San Pedro Center.....22
High Academic Standards/Early Childhood..... 12	Mission Office23
Athletics and Extracurriculars 13	

■ A Message from Bishop Noonan

Who chose you from the world, to go and bear fruit that will last, says the Lord.

(John 15: 16)

The Year of our Lord 2022

My Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Grace and Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you! God chose each one of you to be His presence on this earth. As St. John exclaims, we are called to go and bear fruit that will last. The ministry of the Secretariat for Education, by your participation, does as God asks. God chooses us and we respond with our fiat through the Sacrament of Baptism to follow Him — to go and bear fruit that lasts.

The beatitudes come alive through your ministry as you reach out to the lowly, the poor, the needy, the persecuted and teach them about God by your very deeds in the Lord's name. The self-offering of faculty, staff, and parents, through the traditional or virtual classroom environments, help our young people in need of the Word of God to receive Him. The people of the Diocese of San Juan de la Maguana are offered the essential— the Word of God — by your presence to them. Pilgrims and retreatants to San Pedro Spiritual Development Center are refreshed by God's celestial liturgy. All of these marvelous deeds are made known because you choose to follow Him.

Know of my gratitude for each one of you who share God's Word so profoundly. As you open these pages, taste and see the fruit of your labor in the Lord. May our joy be known as we go out into the world to tell the Good News.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

John Noonan
Most Reverend John Noonan

Bishop of the Diocese of Orlando



2020-2021
DIOCESE OF ORLANDO
CATHOLIC
SCHOOL BOARD

Most Reverend John Noonan
Bishop of Orlando

Mrs. Carol Brinati
Chancellor for Administration

Mr. Henry Fortier
Secretary for Education
and Superintendent of Catholic Schools

Dr. Jacquelyn Flanigan
Associate Superintendent of Catholic Schools

Ms. Patricia Daily
Associate Superintendent of Catholic Schools

Mr. Kevin Casey
CFO/Director of Financial Services

Very Rev. Timothy LaBo, V.F.
Chair and Pastor, St. Joseph Catholic Church,
Lakeland

Mrs. Maureen Brockman
Vice President of CBC Foundation.

Care of Central Florida

Dr. Katherine C. Clark
Retired Orange County School Principal;
Director of Ministry to the Sick at Sts. Peter & Paul
Catholic Church, Winter Park

Rev. Matthew Mello
Pastor, Divine Mercy Catholic Church

Mr. Larry Rostkowski
Owner, Lawrence Custom Builders

Community-Based

Mr. Lou Pereira
President, Trinity Catholic High School
Representing High Schools

Ms. Patricia Kahle
Principal, Annunciation Catholic Academy
Representing Elementary Schools



Our Mission

Catholic schools in the Diocese of Orlando proclaim the Gospel message within an academic environment of excellence that challenges students to be creative and critical thinkers who integrate faith, moral leadership and compassionate service in order to create a more just and humane world.



■ A Message from Superintendent Henry Fortier

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”

– **Isaiah 6:8**



It is my honor to share with you the Education Secretariat’s 2020-2021 Annual Report. This scripture passage is taken from the book of Isaiah. More than 700 years before Jesus’ birth, the prophet Isaiah began his ministry being called by God. This same call still echoes today to each one of us. The primary goal of Catholic education is to educate and evangelize our students and families so they may hear this same call that Isaiah experienced.

In a world filled with fear, anger, and intolerance, Catholic education’s hallmark is HOPE. Whether in our schools in Central Florida, in the mountains of the Dominican Republic in our Sister Diocese, or through programing at San Pedro, the hope promised in the Gospels shines light within the darkness,

The 2020-2021 school year was one filled with challenges for our Catholic educators, but with every challenge there is an opportunity for creativity. As we began the school year, our communities were just coming out of several months of isolation following the March 13, 2020 closure of essentially the entire world. There was very limited knowledge of the COVID-19 virus, and we needed to move forward.

Our teachers and administrators were champions of courage and innovation, creating hybrid learning platforms for the 2,800 students that stayed home to learn while more than 11,000 students returned to our classrooms. Our Catholic school teachers, although uncertain and struggling with the unknown of the virus, placed the needs and love of their students above their own needs. Placing their trust in God, they spoke the words of Isaiah answering God’s call and replied, “Here I am. Send me!”

The focus from the very beginning of the 2020-2021 school year was the safety and well-being of our students and staff within our facilities. We celebrate in the following pages the many amazing accomplishments in the midst of a global pandemic. Catholic education embeds the values of faith and service to others. We form our students from the earliest stages to listen to God and to answer his call by saying here I am, allowing God to direct their lives forever. The value of Catholic education is immeasurable because its effects go far beyond the boundaries of this world into eternity.

May the peace of Christ be with you,

Henry Fortier

Secretary for Education | Superintendent of Catholic Schools



Mr. Henry Fortier
Secretary for Education
and Superintendent of Catholic Schools

Dr. Jacquelyn Flanigan
Associate Superintendent of Catholic Schools

Ms. Patricia Daily
Associate Superintendent of Catholic Schools

Mrs. Jacqueline Abrahams
Director of School Finance

Dr. Joseph Belinski
Director of School Planning
(Retired February 2021)

Dr. Isabel Fernandez
Director of Mission Effectiveness

Mrs. Margie Garland-Aguilar
Director of Instructional Technology

Mrs. Linda Caldwell
Director of Marketing, Central Region

Mrs. Maria Del Amo
Director of Marketing, Western Region

Mrs. Dawn Melcher
Director of Marketing, Eastern Region

Ms. Phyllis Mann
Administrative Assistant

Mrs. Kathy Martin
Administrative Assistant

Sister Bernadette Mackay, O.S.U.
Director, Mission Office

Mr. Randall Pinner
Director, San Pedro Center

Those We Serve

There are 42 Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Orlando, serving infants, toddlers, and students PreK through 12th grade. Schools are located in Brevard, Lake, Marion, Orange, Osceola, Polk, Seminole, and Volusia counties.



Our Schools

Brevard County

Melbourne Central Catholic High School*
 Ascension Catholic School*
 Divine Mercy Catholic Academy*
 Holy Name of Jesus Catholic School*
 Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School
 Our Saviour Catholic School*
 St. Joseph Catholic School, Palm Bay*
 St. Mary Catholic School*
 St. Teresa Catholic School

Lake County

St. Paul Catholic School

Marion County

Trinity Catholic High School
 Blessed Trinity Catholic School
 Queen of Peace Children's House Montessori

Orange County

Bishop Moore Catholic High School
 Good Shepherd Catholic School*
 Holy Family Catholic School*
 Morning Star Catholic School
 Resurrection Catholic Church Preschool
 St. Andrew Catholic School*
 St. Charles Borromeo Catholic School*
 St. James Cathedral School*
 St. John Vianney Catholic School*
 St. Margaret Mary Catholic School*
 St. Patrick Early Learning Center

Osceola County

Holy Redeemer Catholic School
 St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School

Polk County

Santa Fe Catholic High School
 Neumann Early Learning Academy
 Resurrection Catholic School*
 St. Anthony Catholic School
 St. Joseph Catholic School, Winter Haven

Seminole County

All Souls Catholic School*
 Annunciation Catholic Academy*
 St. Mary Magdalen Catholic School*
 Sts. Peter and Paul Early Learning Center

Volusia County

Father Lopez Catholic High School
 Basilica School of St. Paul
 Little Blessings Preschool
 Lourdes Academy*
 Sacred Heart Catholic School*
 St. Brendan Catholic School
 St. Peter Catholic School

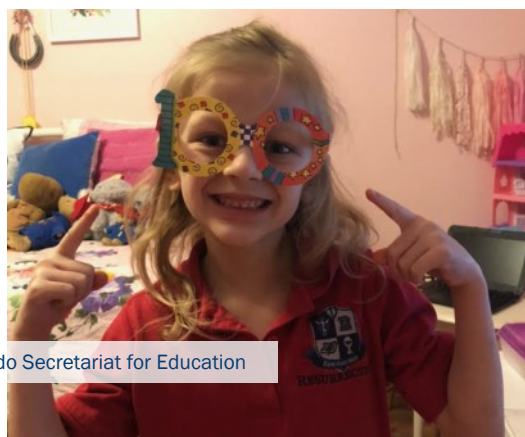
Dominican Republic

Centro San Pablo,
 Centro Sagrada Familia,
 Nuestra Senora de Altigracia,
 Centro San Francisco de Asis
 San Maximilian Kolbe Middle School

* Indicates a U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon School of Excellence

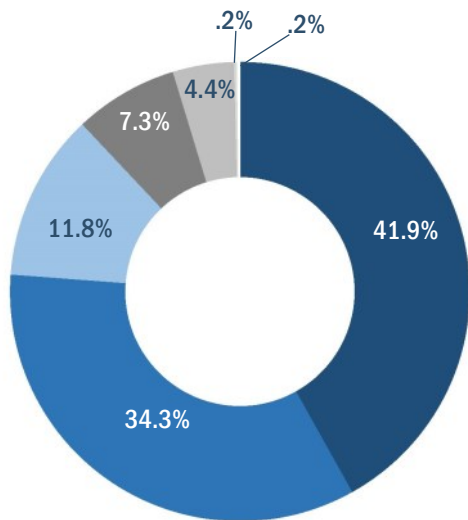
Accredited and State-Certified

All Catholic schools in the Diocese of Orlando are accredited by the Florida Catholic Conference and meet or exceed all state standards. Catholic high schools are also accredited through Cognia. To further promote our Catholic schools' mission, all schools are evaluated using the National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools. Lastly, 100% of eligible faculty are certified by the State of Florida.



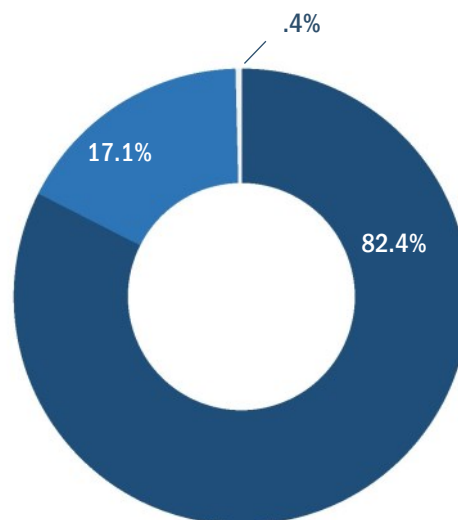


Ethnicity



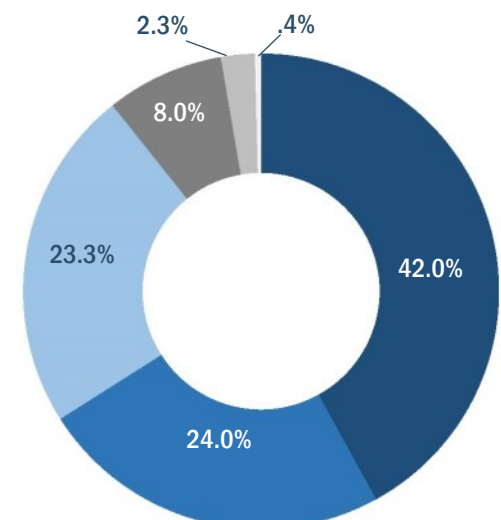
- White (5,332)
- Hispanic (4,376)
- Multi-race (1,507)
- Black (926)
- Asian (552)
- Native American (22)
- Hawaiian/Pacific Island (21)

Religious Affiliation



- Catholic (10,498)
- Non-Catholic (2,182)
- Unknown (56)

Grade Level



- Elementary (K-5) (5,471)
- Middle School (6-8) (3,126)
- High School (9-12) (3,044)
- Pre-K3, 4, VPK (1,041)
- Infant/Toddler (302)*
- Morning Star Catholic School (54)

* Note: We do not track the ethnicity or religious affiliation of our infants and toddlers; therefore, this age group is not reflected in those two charts.



Rest in Peace

We lovingly remember our school leaders who passed away this year.



Ascension Catholic School suffered the loss of two of their beloved leaders — Mrs. Anita Brady, principal, and Fr. Eamon Tobin, pastor.

Mrs. Brady passed away in November 2021 after a brief illness. She was 65 years old. Mrs. Brady was a pillar in the Ascension community. Among the first class of students when the school opened in 1961, Mrs. Brady later returned to the classroom, teaching at Ascension for 18 years before moving to administration in the early 2000s. In 2015, she was named principal by Superintendent Henry Fortier.

“She had such a gentle, warm approach, that there was just a very close bond between her and her students.” Mr. Fortier said. “She lived her faith. She really cared about humankind.”

On Jan. 1, the community was once again devastated upon hearing of the death of their pastor, Fr. Tobin.

Born in Dublin, Ireland, Fr. Tobin was ordained for the Diocese of Orlando on June 11, 1972. He served as associate pastor and pastor in parishes throughout the diocese before being named as pastor of Ascension Parish in 2001.

Instrumental in encouraging the spiritual growth and prayer life of Catholics throughout the diocese, Fr. Tobin was engaged in the welfare of people of all ages. He was a prolific writer and authored books, articles and commentaries on topics close to his heart: prayer, forgiveness, the Sacraments, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Sunday Mass readings, the rosary, death, fear and guilt.



In October 2021, Jessica Bruchey, former principal at St. Joseph Academy (now closed), joined our Father in Heaven after 14-months battling acute myeloid leukemia. Jesi loved her students, teachers, families and friends. Her positive attitude and her go-getter personality will always be remembered.



As the academic year came to a close, we said good-bye to another extraordinary educator. Sister Elizabeth Murphy, O.S.F. Upon her passing on June 30, 2021, the St. John Vianney Catholic School community, said, “We were blessed to have walked with her and the Franciscan community in building St. John Vianney School.”

In 1960, Sister Elizabeth left Ireland for Philadelphia and joined the order of the Sisters of St. Francis. She took her final vows in 1962 and began teaching elementary school in Willingboro, N.J. She joined St. John Vianney in 1976, where she taught third, seventh and eighth grades until 1984, when she left St. John Vianney to become a Principal in Spartanburg, S.C. In 1993, she received a call to return to St. John Vianney to assume the role of principal, a position she would hold for the next 21 years.

Sister encouraged her students to be witnesses to God's love and told them: “May the Christ in you reach out and touch the Christ in all you meet.”

In 2012 Sister Elizabeth received the Bishop Dorsey Award for Distinguished Service to Catholic Education. “My life has been enriched and filled to overflowing,” she said. “I give thanks to God for calling me to be his servant. My heart sings for joy.”

— St. John Vianney community



The Catholic School Difference



The Diocese of Orlando Catholic Schools are fostering **a new generation of remarkable learners and leaders**. We are committed to providing children an **educational experience rooted in high academic standards and steeped in the Catholic faith and traditions**, all within unique and nurturing environments. We strive to ensure the success of all students as they **grow to their fullest potential** – spiritually, ethically, intellectually, socially, and physically.

■ Spiritually Centered

The **faith-centered environment** of our schools is at the heart of who we are and sets us apart from other educational institutions. Through a solid, **religious curriculum**, taught by certified teachers with catechist training, and a focus on **service to others**, our students gain a deep understanding of Christ and our Catholic faith. **They grow in their love and knowledge of Christ** through daily prayer, as well as in the regular celebration of Mass, seasonal liturgical prayer services and events, and spiritual retreats.

56%

of our 8th grade graduates
matriculated to
Catholic high schools

280

formal retreats were
held for students
and/or faculty

45%

of our faculty are
products of Catholic
education.





Above, Riley, an eighth grade student at St. Mary Catholic School, held a car wash as part of her “My Holy Moments” religion class project. She raised more than \$750 and used the money to purchase toys and games for adolescents at Devereux Advanced Behavioral Health, who are facing significant emotional, behavioral, and developmental challenges. As a person with Down Syndrome, Riley felt compelled to help others with unique needs.

Right, St. Peter Catholic School students in VPK through 8th grade collected more than 500 boxes of cereal as part of a lesson in giving. Before donating the cereal to local charities, they participated in a STEM exercise, lining the boxes up and watching them topple in a domino fashion.



250+

Major service projects conducted by our students in all grade levels.

142,080+

Documented service hours.

* Please note: COVID-19 impacted many of our schools’ ability to serve others during the school year.

Hearts of Service

We believe that it is in **sharing our gifts with others** that we truly show gratitude to God. As such, our children are **encouraged to share their time, talent and treasure in service to others.** Throughout the year, they **undertake a number of service projects**, from collecting food for the local poor to visiting the sick and elderly to serving as missionaries in the Dominican Republic. Here is a look at how our students embraced **hearts of service.**



Left, Sacred Heart Catholic School students collected canned goods to donate to local food pantries. The Lenten project amassed more than 1,500 cans .



Every year, the Office of Catholic Schools presents the **St. Teresa of Calcutta Award** to one PreK-8 school and one high school in recognition for service projects completed during the academic year. Projects are based on the seven

Corporal Works of Mercy: feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, bury the dead, shelter the traveler, comfort the sick, and free the imprisoned. Congratulations to **St. Brendan Catholic School** and **Bishop Moore Catholic High School**, recipients of the 2020-2021 award!



In Spring 2021, Raquel, a teen at Morning Star Catholic School, was recognized as a state distinguished finalist — the only one from Central Florida — and awarded the Spirit of Community award

for Prudential Financial for her charitable works in serving children battling cancer. Raquel began her charity at the age of 12, during her own battle of pre-B acute lymphoblastic leukemia. When chemotherapy took her hair, she struggled to see any beauty in the mirror.

After learning that other children lose their hair during cancer treatment and for other medical reasons, she decided to be a light for

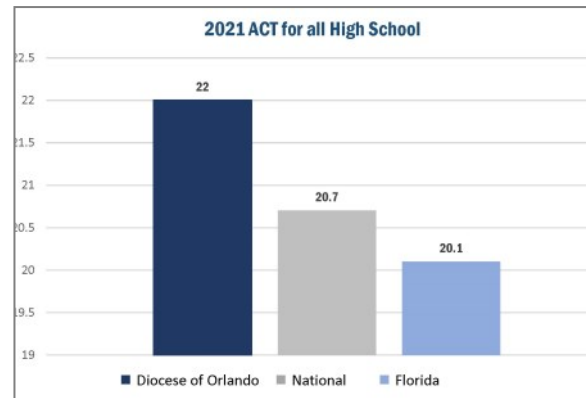
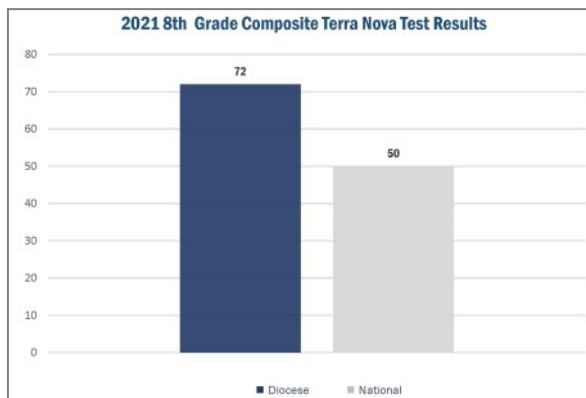
others and began making custom inspirational jewelry with messages such as “Be-YOU-tiful” or “Find Joy in the Journey.” Each piece of jewelry comes with a touching note she writes herself. Her notes often read, “You are beautiful!” Through every heartfelt message, she hopes to promote self-worth and value to those who receive them.

“Raquel’s generous spirit makes her an excellent role model and an inspiration to others,” said Dr. Alicia Abbey, Morning Star Catholic School principal. “She has raised thousands of dollars for special needs organizations and donates her jewelry to charitable organizations. Her positive attitude and desire to make a difference is a wonderful testament to her character.”

■ High academic standards



Academic excellence is a hallmark of a Catholic education. We provide a more **personalized educational experience**. As a result, our students, as a whole, achieve high academic success.



Our students continually score above state and national scores on standardized testing.



■ Early Learning Centers

100%

of our Early Learning Centers are accredited by the Florida Catholic Conference.

1,343

Number of children, ages six weeks to four years old, served in our Early Learning Centers.

100%

of our elementary schools offer Early Learning



■ Athletics and Extracurriculars

A Catholic education reaches **beyond the classroom walls**. We offer a variety of sports, fine arts, academic, social and cultural enrichment opportunities to help **students to discover their talents and the leader within**.

3,176

Number of registered participants in K-8 sports. Most of our schools are part of the Catholic Youth Sports Association and compete against each other and other private schools.

8

Number of regional championships won by our high schools

22

Number of district championships won by our high schools

Congratulations!

to our high school state champions!

- Trinity Catholic Women's Volleyball
- Bishop Moore Catholic Track
- Bishop Moore Catholic Cheer
- Plus seven individual champs

63

Number of high school graduates who received an athletic scholarship



■ Safe, Secure Environment

We believe that all students deserve a **safe and secure environment** in which to thrive, which is what makes our private schools the best in Central Florida. We offer a place, where **children can grow**, physically, intellectually and spiritually.

Our campuses are **secured by state-of-the-art technologies**, and inside the classrooms, **students are welcomed and nurtured** by a caring faculty and staff. In addition they are taught to care for and respect each other.



Changes made to keep students safe

Coming off an academic year like no other in Spring 2020, when in-person learning literally came to a halt and remote learning became the norm because of COVID-19, the Office of Catholic Schools wasted no time in preparing for a new way of educating children in 2020-2021.

During Summer 2020, Superintendent Henry Fortier put together a COVID-19 Task Force, comprised of educators and administrators throughout the diocese to discuss and plan for the safe return of students to the classroom in August. Members of the different committees looked at a myriad of areas, including technology, cleaning and sanitation, mitigating the spread of the virus, faith formation, mental health, athletics, classroom management, and the like.

In the end, their expertise and insight paid off. After a two-week delay from our original start date, we safely opened our school doors on Aug. 26. The delay was implemented to give teachers extra time to prepare their classrooms and learn new technologies.

Here are the changes we made in 2020-2021:

- ◆ Hybrid learning gave parents the option to send their children to school or have them learn remotely via ZOOM and other technologies. Most schools invested in Swivl systems, that featured live streaming options. This allowed students learning remotely to participate in the classroom in real-time.
- ◆ Strategic distancing protocols were put in place. These

included staggered class changes, one-way directions in hallways, plastic shields on desks, extra space between desks, and face masks.

- ◆ New drop off and pick up procedures were implemented, including student temperature screenings before they entered the school building.
- ◆ We revamped our COVID protocols for isolation and quarantine to align with the local health departments and the CDC. In addition, we built partnerships with our local health departments in order to better communicate and report cases. We used our local and state health departments for guidance and support.
- ◆ School Masses were limited to one or two classes at a time, depending on the size of the church as well as class(es). Masses and other Liturgical celebrations were live streamed to the other children.
- ◆ If there was an instance of COVID exposure in a class, students and teachers were able to flip to remote learning seamlessly.
- ◆ Partnering with Catholic Charities and our school counselors, we provided professional and spiritual support for our educators.
- ◆ We reopened athletic programs allowing 50% capacity of spectators, fewer teams. and games spaced out to allow for cleaning in between events.

- ◆ Many school events, such as art shows and holiday performances, were presented remotely.
- ◆ All school Open Houses were held virtually. As a result, every school has a promotional video online.
- ◆ International travel was canceled, and class field trips were postponed until later in the year.
- ◆ Most school celebrations, such as Sacraments, Baccalaureate Masses, graduations, etc. were held, albeit differently, to ensure student safety.
- ◆ Parent communications were enhanced.
- ◆ We began utilizing the funding from the Cares Act and EANS to provide additional resources for the schools, which allowed them to enhance protection, support social distancing, and meet ever-changing learning and technology needs

“All of our protocols were designed to keep our students and staff safe throughout the year,” said Patricia Daily, associate superintendent of Catholic Schools, adding that we had no fatalities because of COVID in any of our schools. “As life started to become as normal as it could be during the pandemic, if we could do something safely, we did it safely. If we couldn't do it safely, we postponed.”

“Many of the strategies that we learned during the year, we will continue to use moving forward.”



■ Morning Star Catholic School

Founded in 1960 by the Sisters of St. Joseph of St. Augustine, Morning Star Catholic School provides students with special needs the opportunity to discover their gifts and achieve their personal best as children of God.

2

Number of spiritual retreats held for students. Faculty and staff also participated in two retreats.

100+

Number of hours our students gave of themselves in service to others.

100%

Morning Star Catholic School students are integrated into regular classrooms, learning alongside their fellow Catholic school peers at Bishop Moore Catholic High School and St. Charles Borromeo Catholic School.

6

Number of students who received the Sacrament of Confirmation.

4

Number of students who made their First Holy Communion

■ Tomorrow's Leaders

100%
of high school seniors
graduated.

99%
of our graduates
headed to college or
the military.

17
high school students
had a perfect score
on any portion of the
ACT test.

379
number of colleges in
which our graduates
were accepted.

\$51 million
Amount of money our
graduates earned in
scholarships.

Congratulations! to our high school valedictorians!

Marcus Lisman

Bishop Moore Catholic High School

Michael Rossen

Father Lopez Catholic High School

Anna Terlep

Santa Fe Catholic High School

Hannah Rodriguez

Trinity Catholic High School

Alfred Annas, Jeremy Benzler, Nick Burns, Joe Canestrari, Anthony Dambek, Rebecca Fitch, Abby Fronk, Maddie Henry, Marissa Kasch, Sabrina Kenemuth, Tony Kolarik, Katherine Laird, Gretchen Lane, Abbey LeStrange, Emilie LeStrange, Alyssa Luceno, Sydney MacDonald, Anne MacKay, Skylar Marrone, Charlie Marshall, Gabby Morano, Jack Paternoster, Nick Pellizzi, Eric Sanchez, Cristina Schaasfma, Luke Smith, Olivia Stimpson, John Struckman, Aaron Turner, Hunter Wittenberg, Nick Zizzo

Melbourne Central Catholic High School

Catholic Education is affordable!

Many of our families are able to send their children to Catholic schools thanks to the following support:

\$14,858,766

in Catholic tuition assistance and other tuition and fee allowances offered by local parishes, schools, etc.

\$1,678,290

in VPK allowances (serving 729 students)

\$25,353,217

in Florida tax credit scholarships (serving 3,868 students)

\$6,153,819

in Florida Empowerment scholarships (serving 947 students)

\$4,929,897

in McKay scholarships (serving 752 students)

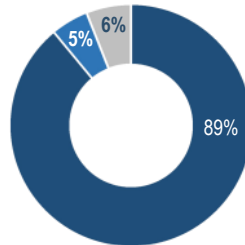
\$2,396,016

in Gardiner scholarships (serving 296 students)

Financially Sound

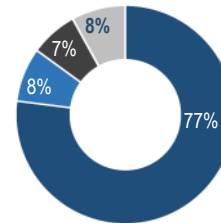
Revenue

Early Learning Centers



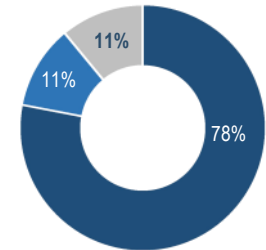
- Net Tuition & Fees, \$5,081,249
- Fundraising & Development Support, \$305,608
- All Other, \$323,676

PreK-8 Schools



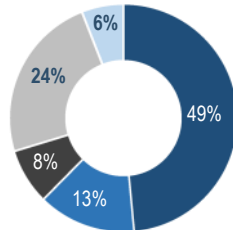
- Net Tuition & Fees, \$64,491,616
- Fundraising & Development Support, \$6,295,100
- Parish Support, \$6,186,057
- All Other, \$6,916,989

High Schools

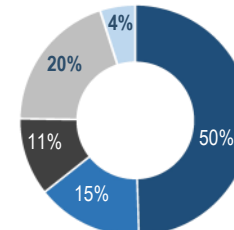


- Net Tuition & Fees, \$34,248,833
- Fundraising & Development Support, \$4,780,375
- All Other, \$4,955,185

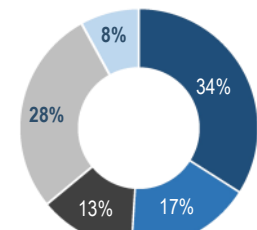
Expenses



- Instructional, \$2,594,666
- Administration, \$675,049
- Plant, \$432,738
- Fixed & Other, \$1,279,687
- Ancillary, \$344,516



- Instructional, \$39,176,858
- Administration, \$11,487,317
- Plant, \$8,418,677
- Fixed & Other, \$16,181,668
- Ancillary & Athletics, \$3,196,198



- Instructional, \$12,740,523
- Administration, \$6,350,588
- Plant, \$4,801,226
- Fixed & Other, \$10,698,105
- International, Ancillary & Athletics, \$2,838,605

Thank you!

Endowment funds provide an ongoing source of revenue for Catholic schools. Thanks to the generosity of donors through The Catholic Foundation of Central Florida, families throughout the diocese are able to realize the dream of a Catholic education for their children.

\$349,060

Amount of tuition assistance distributed from these diocesan-wide endowment funds:
AIC Tuition Assistance Endowment Fund
Adelaida Valdes Endowment Fund
Fr. Frank Zammit Endowment Fund

\$351,807

Endowment earnings distributed from the additional 31 school-specific endowment funds held at The Catholic Foundation of Central Florida. In addition to scholarships and tuition assistance, these funds also provide dollars for programs and operations.

■ Top Educators

100%

of our eligible faculty are state-certified.

44%

of our faculty hold advanced degrees.

29%

of our faculty have taught in the Diocese of Orlando 10 or more years. 60 have taught here for 25 years or more.



From first row left, Cohort graduates and staff include Claudette Banciella, Annunciation Academy; Brooke Cimmino, St. Thomas Aquinas; Shannon Lestage, St. Thomas; Beth Miller, Bishop Moore; Monica Matthews, St. Paul; Milagros Montalvo, Good Shepherd; Stephanie Ellerbe, St. Joseph, Winter Haven; Marilyn Ahearn, Good Shepherd. From second row left, Jacquelyn Flanigan, associate superintendent; Edward Henry and Anita Kealer, both of Melbourne Central Catholic; Michelle Miller, St. Andrew; Christine Summers, Annunciation; Stephanie Swartz, Our Lady of Lourdes; Ashlee Danisovszky, St. John Vianney; Katelyn Fisher, Father Lopez; Collin Lang, St. Thomas Aquinas; Jonathan LaManna, Good Shepherd; Jayme Hartmann, principal of St. James Cathedral. From third row, left, Brandon Hill, Basilica School of St. Paul; Diomara Perez, Lourdes Academy; Henry Fortier, superintendent of Catholic Schools; Melissa Rangel, Good Shepherd; and Kelly Wilkes, St. James Cathedral School.

Twenty-one of the Diocese of Orlando's top Catholic educators recently completed the **St. Leo University/Diocese of Orlando Educational Leadership Cohort**, a two-year, dual-opportunity educational program designed to assure successful leadership succession within the diocese's Catholic school system. They gathered Dec. 10, 2020, at San Pedro Spiritual Development Center in Winter Park for Mass celebrated by Bishop John Noonan, and a luncheon awards presentation with Henry Fortier, superintendent of Catholic Schools.

Through the generosity of Bishop Noonan, the cohort included tuition support for those pursuing their master's degree in Educational Leadership from St. Leo. Additionally, the Office of Catholic Schools designed a program, led by Jacquelyn Flanigan, associate superintendent, and Jayme Hartmann, principal of St. James Cathedral School, that covered the theories and practices applied specifically to Catholic schools within the diocese.

"This cohort came together as a group of educators to learn to be future school administrators in our diocese," Flanigan said. "They far exceeded that expectation. They emerged as a collective group of true future leaders."



Tammi Haas, principal at St. Joseph Catholic School, Winter Haven, was named recipient the **2020 Jenni Heneghan Distinguished Leadership Award**, named in honor of the late Jennifer Heneghan. The award is presented to an educator who exemplifies her spirit, faith life and professionalism.

We noted the following changes in leadership during the school year:

- **Mrs. Debbie Ahearn**, principal of St. Paul Catholic School, Leesburg. Previously, she served as assistant principal of Good Shepherd Catholic School, Orlando.
- **Mrs. Claudia Stokes**, principal of Ascension Catholic School, Melbourne. Having served as principal of St. Joseph Catholic School for 10 years, Mrs. Stokes transitioned to Ascension in March after the school experienced the tragic loss of its principal, Mrs. Anita Brady.
- **Mr. Ed Henry**, principal of St. Joseph Catholic School, Palm Bay. A recent graduate of the Office of Catholic School's leadership cohort program, Mr. Henry was the athletic director at Melbourne Central Catholic High School. He replaced Mrs. Claudia Stokes in March.
- **Mrs. Amy Westner**, lead teacher/assistant principal at Our Saviour Catholic School, was named interim principal and ultimately principal of the school after the retirement of Mrs. Janet Peddecord in January.

2020-2021 Distinguished Teachers

as selected by their school leaders



Every year, the Office of Catholic Schools recognizes one extraordinary teacher from each school. Selected by the school's administration, the honorees are presented with the **Diocese of Orlando Distinguished Catholic School Educator Award** during OCS annual **Educator Kick-Off event**. We are pleased to present the diocese's top teachers for 2020-2021.

Early Learning Centers



Mary Porter
Sts. Peter and Paul Early Learning Center,
Winter Park

K-8 Teachers



Kristin Randlov
All Souls Catholic School, Sanford



Gina Deighan
Annunciation Catholic Academy,
Altamonte Springs



Laura Davis
Ascension Catholic School,
Melbourne



Melanie Clark
Basilica School of St. Paul, Daytona Beach



Karen Powers
Blessed Trinity Catholic School, Ocala



Peter Harris
Divine Mercy Academy, Merritt Island



Lynn Zuleeg
Good Shepherd Catholic School, Orlando



Roseanne Santalls
Holy Family Catholic School,
Orlando



Jane Burley
Holy Name of Jesus Catholic School,
Indialantic



April Lampe
Holy Redeemer Catholic School,
Kissimmee



Amy Matzke
Lourdes Academy, Daytona Beach



Leanne Wendrick
Morning Star Catholic School, Orlando



Aimee Stephens
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School,
Melbourne



Katie Vore
Our Saviour Catholic School, Cocoa
Beach



Katie Senkarik
Resurrection Catholic School, Lakeland



Diane Halsema
Sacred Heart Catholic School,
New Smyrna Beach



Tina Volrath
St. Andrew Catholic School, Orlando



Damarys Allaire
St. Anthony Catholic School, Lakeland



Philomena Bannon
St. Brendan Catholic School, Ormond Beach



Jill Voitik
St. Charles Borromeo Catholic School,
Orlando



Anna Lee Cathcart
St. James Cathedral School, Orlando



Ashlee Danisovszky
St. John Vianney Catholic School, Orlando



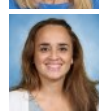
Dr. Rosemary Gilbert
St. Joseph Catholic School, Palm Bay



Nancy MacPhee
St. Joseph Catholic School, Winter Haven



Susan Deichen
St. Margaret Mary Catholic School,
Winter Park



Michelle Doyle
St. Mary Catholic School, Rockledge



Maureen Parks
St. Mary Magdalen Catholic School,
Altamonte Springs



Sonia Nikolai
St. Paul Catholic School, Leesburg



Beth LaBonte
St. Peter Catholic School, Deland



Patricia Taurasi
St. Teresa Catholic School, Titusville

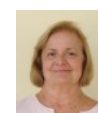


Magy Brown
St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School,
St. Cloud

High Schools



Paula Steadman
Bishop Moore Catholic High School, Orlando



Gloria Chandler
Father Lopez Catholic High School,
Daytona Beach



Christi Head
Melbourne Central Catholic High School,
Melbourne



Anne Becker
Santa Fe Catholic High School, Lakeland



Sharon Hauser
Trinity Catholic High School, Ocala

■ News Makers



Eighth grade students design and construct workable pumpkin launchers – also used with Pre-K – as part of their STREAM unit with pumpkins.

Our Lady of Lourdes is first to receive STREAM accreditation

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School in Melbourne was the first school in the Diocese of Orlando to receive STREAM (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Arts, and Math) accreditation from the Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops. The school officially earned accreditation in October.

Henry Fortier, superintendent of Catholic Schools, explained STREAM is a cross-curricular experience imbued into campus life and academics, which incorporates religion and the arts.

“The beauty of STREAM is that it applies Catholic teaching to every area of academic life. Rather than simply studying an aspect of technology or engineering, STREAM schools also take into account the implications of those sciences in the real world, viewing them through a moral, Catholic lens, assuring they best serve and honor the dignity God’s creation, entrusted to our care,” he said.

To be considered a STREAM School the school scores an average of 3.0-3.49 composite on Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops’ benchmarks, STREAM benchmarks, and the observations. Mrs. Donna Witherspoon, Lourdes principal, began pursuing accreditation roughly two years ago. Being on the Space Coast and knowing how much math, science, technology and engineering the school fostered, Mrs. Witherspoon thought it was an excellent opportunity. With a campus set up for collaboration and thinking skills needed in the engineering process, Mrs. Witherspoon said, “It wasn’t very hard to finetune things and take them to the next level.”

She enlisted the help of longtime colleague Mrs. Rebecca Booth, science teacher and STREAM Coordinator. Mrs. Booth and her team assembled a lesson plan to make that “full connection across the curriculum.” Their desire was not to have “students learning in subject silos, but to have a full blended learning experience across as many subjects as possible,” she said.

— Glenda Meekins, *The Florida Catholic*



Moore Center for Excellence blessed

Bishop John Noonan blessed and dedicated the long-awaited Moore Center for Excellence, May 26, on the Bishop Moore Catholic High School campus.

“We bless and dedicate this building to the education and spiritual development of our youth. ... To the pursuit of excellence in mind, body, athletics and music. To spiritual development through faith, sharing, and service,” Bishop Noonan said.

After the Hornets football team won the state championship in 2015, community members asked what they could do to assist in maintaining a high level of training. Head football coach, Matt Hedrick, asked for a weight room and a locker room. The project soon evolved to meet Bishop Moore’s broader needs.

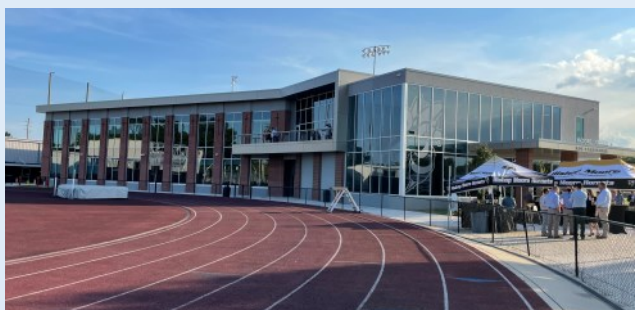
Beginning in fall 2021, numerous STEM courses were housed in the center. Among them are Honors Forensics, Care and Prevention for Athletes, Aerospace Principles and Technology

– dual enrollment programs with Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, Engineering Design and Robotics. The multi-purpose facility also provides space and opportunity for spiritual formation and development.

The building has event space and a reception hall with two balconies overlooking sports fields. There is also a catering kitchen, fitness room, an athletic director office suite, and a tunnel so student athletes can run onto the field. In addition, there is a gift store where fans can pick up their favorite Hornets merchandise.

“The Moore Center will provide unlimited opportunities for our students,” Principal, Dr. Erika Wikstrom, said. “It is all about ensuring our students are prepared for the 21st century and the Moore Center for Excellence is going to provide that opportunity.”

— Glenda Meekins, *The Florida Catholic*



Divine Mercy Academy merges



On March 26th, Father Kenny Aquino, pastor of Divine Mercy Catholic Church, announced the merger of DMCA with the surrounding schools in the area including St. Mary Catholic School in

Rockledge, Our Saviour Catholic School in Cocoa Beach, and St. Teresa Catholic School in Titusville. Founded in 1964 with an inaugural class of 1st through 6th grade, the school has experienced over time enrollment declines and financial shortfalls combined with a severe impact of the pandemic. This decision to merge DMCA with area Catholic schools came after much research, collaboration, contemplation, and prayer among Diocese of Orlando Catholic school leadership.

Upon this news of the school merger, the community of families experienced heartfelt sadness but were welcomed and embraced by the sister schools in the Central/Northern Brevard area. More than 64% of students continued their education at another Catholic School in the diocese, with 78% of teachers being hired by these schools.

— Dawn Melcher

We unfortunately noted the closing of one of our Early Learning Centers this year. Queen of Peace Children's House Montessori closed its doors at the end of 2020 because of enrollment and staffing issues.

School improvements revolve around technology



Enhanced technology topped the list of improvements made during the 2020-2021 academic year. The most significant of these changes was the installation of Swivl camera systems in a majority of our schools. With live-streaming options, the camera system allowed students at

home to learn remotely in real time via ZOOM and other technologies.

Many schools also added to their cache of personal computer devices, including Chromebooks, iPads, tablets, and the like, offering one-to-one usage in more classrooms.

In the summer, we kicked off a diocesan-wide project to install a UVC disinfectant system in the air conditioning units of all of our schools to purify the air in the buildings, thus mitigating the COVID and even cold and flu viruses. Other COVID safety enhancements, including water filling stations, were installed. Schools also updated classroom furnishings.

Physical changes made on some campuses include:

- **Blessed Trinity Catholic School** — new soccer field and playground, outdoor basketball court improvements, and a new gym floor.
- **Holy Redeemer Catholic School** — new STEM lab.
- **Holy Family Catholic School** — the courtyard was re-landscaped and new gates installed.

- **St. Charles Borromeo Catholic School** — new roof.
- **St. Margaret Mary Catholic School** — new A/C and roof
- **St. James Cathedral School** — kitchen remodel, A/C upgrade, sound system in gym upgrade, terrazzo floors redone, security and alarm system upgrade, glass door installed in lobby, new landscaping.
- **St. Peter Catholic School** — new college-level gym floor.
- **St. Teresa Catholic School** — front office remodel.
- **Basilica School of St. Paul** — parking lot improvements.
- **Annunciation Catholic Academy** — new front office security entry doors, including bullet-resistance glass.
- **Fr. Lopez Catholic High School** — new MacLab.
- **Trinity Catholic High School** — new stained glass installed in dome of Chapel.
- **Bishop Moore Catholic** — renovations of St. Joseph Chapel began.

Two retire from Diocese of Orlando Catholic schools



We bid "Happy Retirement" to two long-time leaders of our community.

Janet Peddecord, principal of Our Saviour Catholic School, retired Jan. 22, 2021, after serving 50 years in the ministry of Catholic education. Peddecord leaves a legacy and will

be missed by the school community and throughout the Diocese of Orlando.

Peddecord's career as a Catholic educator began in Wisconsin where she taught elementary school and first became a principal. She joined the Diocese of Orlando in 2005 as principal of St. Anthony Catholic School, Lakeland,

where she served for 14 years and received the Catholic School Administrator of the Year award in 2016. In January 2019, she became principal of Our Saviour.

Henry Fortier, superintendent of Catholic Schools, said her "gentle, loving, steady presence will be deeply missed." "I am grateful to Mrs. Peddecord for all she has done for the Our Saviour Catholic School community. She truly was an example of God's loving presence."



Dr. Joseph Belinski, director of School Planning for the Office of Catholic Schools, retired on March 1, 2021. He served 12 years in the diocese.

Among Dr. Belinski's work experiences is a multi-year tour as Director of Central U.S. Navy Region Recruiting in Illinois. He was known for his breadth of knowledge regarding strategic planning and forecasting, as well as his love for data, which he was always happy to share.

"Dr. Belinski was a great asset to our Diocese in helping us grow in our understanding and appreciation of data within our school communities," Mr. Fortier said. "We are grateful for his dedicated service throughout the years."

Enjoy your retirement!

■ San Pedro

72

Number of programs offered by San Pedro.

142

Number of groups that held meetings/events at San Pedro.

349

Number of participants at our nine Senior Day events.

\$22,667

Amount of money raised at our annual Gala.

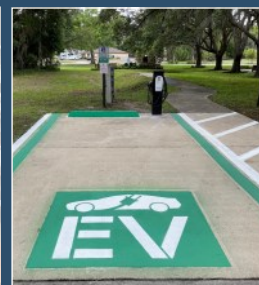
249

Number of campers who had a lot of fun growing in their love of Jesus.



On March 16, Bishop John Noonan blessed the newly renovated St. Anthony of Padua Hall. Built in 1960, St. Anthony of Padua Hall, is the oldest building on the San Pedro campus and was used for large group gatherings, Mass, and summer camp. It had only two small bathrooms along the outside of the building and no air conditioning. New life was breathed into the building after an extensive renovation project that stripped the old hall to its metal frame. The restored building now features air conditioning throughout the entire building, multiple-stall restrooms, two small areas on each side for basic food preparation, and a meeting space that accommodates 192 people sitting theatre-style.

“We are truly blessed to bring new life to one of San Pedro’s oldest, iconic spaces, allowing returning and new guests to create inspiring memories, experience nature, and hear God’s voice,” said Randall Pinner, director of San Pedro.



In addition, we added to our offerings! In September 2020, we opened a Gift Shop where guests can purchase religious statues, books, crucifixes, jewelry, gifts and more. In May 2021, we unveiled the Electric Vehicle (EV) charging space for electrical vehicles needing a boost.

Thirty-five make-shift homes in the Diocese of San Juan de la Maguana, our sister diocese in the Dominican Republic, were torn down and replaced with sturdy block houses, complete with concrete floors, indoor bathrooms, and sturdy ceilings! Built by the locals with the assistance of volunteers from the Diocese of Orlando, the homes are part of a yearlong construction project overseen by Luis José Aybar de los Santos, a civil engineer graduate from the University of Central Florida and Bishop Moore Catholic High School. Mr. Aybar de los Santos is proud of the finished product.

“Since I was a little boy, I was inspired by the work the mission office does in my community,” he said. “I always dreamt of becoming a professional one day so I could help my community like the diocese. Receiving the opportunity to go to the United States to study was God’s gift.”

The project is a tremendously great feat, considering that the century-old community just installed running water last year. Families are helping with construction as a form of payment. The rest of the bill is covered by a generous grant from the Ruckstuhl Foundation.

9,228

Number of school supply items delivered to the children of the Diocese of San Juan de la Manguana. Our Catholic School students donated a majority of these supplies.

465

Number of students enrolled in our elementary and high schools. They are taught by **40** teachers.

1,671

Number of pairs of shoes donated to the people of the Dominican Republic.

31

Number of missionaries who served on **four** construction missions.

Congratulations!

to Yolanda Aybar, MCC, and Yissel Delgado, and Sauli Sanchez, Father Lopez, our DR exchange students who graduated in May 2021.



DIocese OF ORLANDO SECRETARIAT FOR EDUCATION

Office of Catholic Schools ♦ Mission Office ♦ San Pedro Spiritual Development Center

50 E. Robinson St., Orlando, FL 32801

(407) 246-4900 ♦ orlandodiocese.org/schools