



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

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

June 10, 2014

Dear Families,

During my time as Bishop of Scranton, I have set forth a pastoral vision for our Diocese, as well as a vision for our Diocesan Catholic School System. The heart of my vision, which reflects our shared vision for all of our Catholic Schools, is to ensure that we continue to maintain a Catholic School System that is stable, sustainable, spiritually sound and academically excellent. As another school year comes to a conclusion, I want to express my gratitude to you and all of the members of our school community – students, parents, families, alumni, teachers, staff, administrators, parishes, diocesan staff – who share a deep commitment to insure that our Catholic schools remain a vital part of the mission of our Diocese. I share this commitment with you.

Many of you may recall that in January, 2011, I announced a three-year tuition plan intended to assist you with future planning. At that time, I also committed to providing you with a four-year schedule at the conclusion of the third year (2013/14). The purpose of this letter, therefore, is to share with you the details of our four year K-12 tuition schedule for the Holy Redeemer System, which is included as an attachment to this letter.

When we set out together on this journey to develop a viable and financially sustainable Catholic School System, we made some difficult decisions in each of our four school systems. In the Holy Cross and Holy Redeemer Systems, four elementary schools were closed in order to maximize enrollment and cut expenses. In the Notre Dame and St. John Neumann Systems, we established aggressive enrollment benchmarks. As we look forward to the 2014/15 school year, we realize that we need to continue to focus our efforts on ensuring that our buildings are at capacity, that our tuition and parish subsidies remain reasonable and that financial grants and scholarships are available to assist families who sacrifice to provide a quality, Catholic education for their children.

To this end, if you need more information or guidance regarding financial assistance opportunities that are available, I encourage you to contact your principal. While each school provides opportunities to help reduce the tuition cost to its families (e.g., gift certificate program), one of the most significant financial resources available to families is the Diocese of Scranton Scholarship Foundation's tuition assistance program. As you know, all families who wish to be considered for financial assistance are required to complete the PSAS application form. Many of you have already registered your children and completed this form in anticipation of the upcoming 2014/15 school year, but some of you have not yet registered your children. Perhaps you were waiting for the roll out of this four-year tuition schedule to assist you in your planning or perhaps you were seeking some assurance that your school would remain open. Regardless of the reason, I encourage you to register your child with us as soon as possible as we plan for teacher assignments based on end of year enrollment.

In each of our four school systems, when I shared our vision for Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Scranton, many of you responded to my words by offering your own, "Bishop, just tell us that there will be Catholic schools for our children, and we will do the rest." While I cannot predict what the future will hold, I will do everything I can to continue to nurture and provide a spiritually sound and academically excellent Diocesan Catholic School System. This four-year plan is testimony to my commitment to our school system. But, as many of you noted, your participation in this vision is vital. I cannot do it alone. As such, I hope that you continue to partner and walk this journey with us so that together we can continue to provide the children and young adults that God has entrusted to our care with a quality, Catholic education.

Please be assured of my prayers for you, your family and the entire Catholic School community in the Diocese of Scranton.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

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

Attachment