



## DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH THE BISHOP'S OFFICE



In his address to Catholic educators during his 2008 visit to the United States, Our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI said that “Education is integral to the mission of the Church.” I could not agree more. And while the Church as a whole, and the Diocese of Fort Worth in particular, employs many means to carry out this ministry of education, I likewise must affirm the position of the National Directory of Catechesis which says that the Catholic school provides a “particularly favorable setting...with its daily opportunity for proclaiming and living the Gospel message.”

Our Catholic schools support and complement all parents in their role as the primary educators of their children by providing, again in the words of the National Directory of Catechesis, “the privileged environment in which Christian education is carried out.” Catholic schools continually seek to provide each student with a daily encounter with Jesus Christ and show students how Jesus illumines all life.

Academic excellence is naturally produced by focusing on a world which has been, and continues to be, directly touched by God. There are no secular subjects in a Catholic school. With the Faith well lived as the Catholic school’s primary goal, every facet of our Catholic school curriculum and program, leads our students to know the loving presence of our God and directs them toward a commitment to a lifetime of service to others. Nothing is more supportive of outstanding academic achievement than a school which is authentically Catholic.

The Diocese of Fort Worth is deeply committed toward sustaining and enhancing the legacy of faith formation, community and service that our Catholic schools represent. A diocesan commitment to a vision which supports thriving Catholic schools in this Diocese leads to programs such as the Bishop’s Scholars which help keep Catholic schools accessible, available and affordable to all who desire them.

I am grateful for the sacrifices of parents who continue to support our Catholic schools. The benefits of an educational program built around the fundamental premise of conveying a total Catholic world view that is formed and nurtured by the loving presence of Jesus cannot be overstated. I urge all parents to prayerfully consider our Catholic schools.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Kevin W. Vann, J.C.D., D.D.  
Bishop of Fort Worth

KWV/jv

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