



THE DIOCESE OF KALAMAZOO

Office of the Bishop

January 29, 2018

Dear Catholic School Parents,

As we join across the country in observing *Catholic Schools' Week*, I offer you my profound gratitude for your support of Catholic School education in our Diocese. This year's theme "*Catholic Schools: Learn, Serve, Lead, Succeed*" aptly describes the mission of our Catholic School communities to help our students to become life-long learners, generous servants and effective leaders. And, based on our stellar graduation statistics, test scores and numerous examples of Catholic School graduates' accomplishments, we gratefully can point to the fact that our students are successful contributors to society.

On my regular school visits, especially as I have celebrated school Masses, I am privileged to witness the faith, knowledge and service alive in each of our schools. In your primary role as parents and the first teachers of your children, you have provided them with a powerful foundation of faith and love, and it is edifying to see your children's growth as our schools build on that foundation. By your willingness to make the many sacrifices required to provide a Catholic School education for your child/children, you are putting them on a path to learn, serve, lead and succeed.

I echo the words of our Holy Father, Pope Francis, who in offering counsel to parents, said: "*The best witness we can give our children is to show them how faith helps us to go forward and face challenges and tragedy, not with pessimism, but with trust.*" (Milan, March 2017) May our loving God reward you for your trust in our Catholic Schools, and guide you in leading your family to continue living your lives according to God's holy ways.

Thanking you for choosing Catholic School education, assuring you of my heartfelt prayers for you and your families, and humbly asking for your prayers for me and our Diocese, I remain

Faithfully yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Paul J. Bradley".

Most Rev. Paul J. Bradley
Bishop of Kalamazoo