Why Catholic Schools?

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS ANNUAL REPORT 2015

ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW ORLEANS
Office of Catholic Schools
Do You Ever Wonder Why?

There are more and more options in education. There are solid public schools, good charter schools, and an array of private non-denominational schools. So why would someone choose Catholic schools? Why do people continue to save and sacrifice to send their children to schools where the Catholic faith is the foundation of all things?

Last fall, the Office of Catholic Schools and the Office of Communications for the Archdiocese of New Orleans asked those questions. Why choose Catholic schools? The parents had profound, thought-provoking answers. They talked about Catholic schools as safe places where children are nurtured spiritually and academically. They talked about Catholic schools as more than institutions and more like families. As one mother put it, “The principal brought me soup when I was sick!” They talked about Catholic schools as centers of excellent academics. Mostly, they talked about Catholic schools as places of prayer, where children learn that God is at the center of all things.

Catholic schools are places set apart. They are worth the saving and sacrificing to ensure that our children understand that they are created in the image of God and so must go forth to serve others out of love and for love.

Why choose Catholic schools? Simply, they are the more excellent way.
Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As I consider the issues facing our young people today, I give thanks for the ministry of Catholic education in the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Some may ask, “Why do we need Catholic schools?” We need Catholic schools because they provide something the world longs for – an education firmly rooted in Christ.

An education rooted in the love of Christ means that our Catholic schools cannot fail to be centers of excellence. They cannot fail because, as St. Paul tells us, “Love never fails” (1 Cor 13:8). Catholic schools teach the mind and touch the heart so that students will come to know, love, and serve the Lord and one another.

Our Catholic schools continue to provide numerous answers to the question, “Why do we need Catholic schools?” The answers are found in the lives of those who bless our world with love, all because they were educated with the heart of Christ.

Wishing you God’s blessings, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Rev. Gregory M. Aymond

Dear Friends of Catholic Schools,

I am happy to provide you with our latest annual report, “Why Catholic Schools?” In attempting to answer that question, I have to look at my own family. Why did my parents choose Catholic schools for my sisters and me? Why did I choose Catholic schools for my children?

Every parent wants to provide children with an excellent education, of course. However, when choosing Catholic schools, parents are saying they want more. For my parents, they wanted their daughters to learn and live the Catholic faith. They wanted us to be nourished by the love of God and share that love with others through concrete acts of service in God’s name. I wanted the same for my children. I wanted to teach them, with help from our Catholic schools, that the true meaning of “success” is how we live lives of service embedded in the Catholic faith.

In essence, I wanted my children to learn that living the Christian way of life is living the way of love. I think all parents want that for their children, and I know that there is no better place for teaching the way of love than in our Catholic schools.

Why do I choose Catholic schools? Because they are the more excellent way. They teach the mind and fill the heart with God’s grace.

Thank you to all who choose Catholic schools. Spread the word, share the good news, and help our Catholic schools grow stronger every day!

Yours in Christ,

Dr. Jan Daniel Lancaster

and Superintendent

Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond

Archbishop of New Orleans
Who We Are

For in one Spirit, we were all baptized into one body”

(1 Cor 12:13)
Why We Are

Why do we need Catholic schools?

The Catholic school system in the United States was born to offer a haven for Catholic families to live and learn their faith. Our schools flourished as Catholic immigrants flooded into the country.

Over the years, Catholic schools have faced challenges with shifting populations, increasing costs, charter schools, and a scarcity of religious who once formed the backbone of our schools. Still, we need Catholic schools - now more than ever. Our Catholic schools provide what no other school system does - an excellent academic education rooted in the love of Jesus.

The Archdiocese of New Orleans is working hard to make Catholic schools more available to Catholic families. Because when someone asks, “Why Catholic Schools?” Because Catholic schools teach Catholic values.

Because Catholic schools teach children to know, love, and serve the Lord.
To Know

To know the Lord means more than knowing scripture and catechism. To know the Lord fully means to know Him through science, math, literature, and all of the subjects crucial to a well-rounded education.

Why Catholic schools? Because they help form individuals who come to know God in all things and through all things.

Why Catholic schools? Because they succeed. Because our students score higher on the ACT and because our students are more likely to go on to college. Look at the numbers:

TerraNova test scores for students in grades 3-7 in the Archdiocese of New Orleans indicate above-average performance in core subject areas.*

College Attendance Comparisons

The percentage of high school graduates who attend 4-year colleges:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College Attendance Percentage*</th>
<th>Type of School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>85.7%</td>
<td>Catholic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62.1%</td>
<td>Other Religious</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56.1%</td>
<td>Non-Sectarian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39.5%</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Data are not available for those attending community colleges, technical schools or enlistment in the military. Sources: Broughman, S.P. and Swaim, N.L. (2013), Snyder, T.D., and Dillow, S.A. (2014) Taken from The Annual Statistical Report on Schools, Enrollment and Staffing, National Educational Association
Our Catholic schools are centers of love. Our Catholic schools preach and teach the Gospel command to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Why Catholic schools? Because they form disciples. Because they form young Catholics who grow into older Catholics who continue to love and serve the Lord. Just look at the numbers:

To Love

One of the strongest effects of Catholic schooling is on the Sacrament of Confirmation. The number of Confirmations celebrated in the United States has been in decline since 2009. Part of this decline is likely linked to changes in Catholic schooling. As shown below, the likelihood that one will be confirmed is much higher among those who attended Catholic schools. Only two-thirds of self-identified Catholics who never attend a Catholic school are confirmed compared to 82% of those who attend a Catholic school and 91% of those who attend a Catholic high school.

Percentage of Adult Catholics Who Received Sacrament of Confirmation by Generation and Catholic School Attendance

Pre Vatican II (b. before 1943)
Attended Catholic primary school
Attended Catholic secondary school
Never attended Catholic school

Vatican II (b. 1943-60)

Post-Vatican II (b. 1961-81)

Millennial (b. 1982 or later)

Source: CARA/Sacraments Today
Our Catholic schools are schools of service. Love is never to be turned inward, but to flow outward – to go to the fringes, as Pope Francis tells us, and transform the world with the Joy of the Gospel.

Why Catholic schools?
Because they send students forth to build up the kingdom of God. Because they exist not for themselves but for the world.

Why Catholic schools? Because they succeed. They succeed in carrying forth the command of Jesus to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Senior Service Hours:
Total: 30,000 Hours
Why I Support Catholic Schools

“I want my children to be in a place where they can pray and learn about God’s love for them.”

“It would break my heart not to be able to send my child to Catholic school. My husband is out of work, and I am trying to make ends meet. Please help me any way you can.”

“We need to make Catholic education open to all – poor and rich alike.”
How Can You Help?

We cannot make Catholic schools "more affordable" – not if we want to pay our teachers a just wage and keep our facilities up to date. However, we can make Catholic schools more "available" to those who truly want to be a part of our family of Catholic schools. We can do this by inviting all members of the community to be Champions of Catholic Education by making a monetary donation that will be used to provide children with a chance to attend Catholic schools.

So join the team. Be a champion. Whether you have ever attended a Catholic school, whether you have children or grandchildren in Catholic schools, whether you are Catholic or not - consider supporting an education steeped in virtue and value. Your donation will make God’s world a better place.

Be a champion. It’s not a charity. It’s a chance to change a life. It’s a chance to change the world, one child at a time.

Donations can be made online at donate.arch-no.org/arch-no
Select Catholic Schools tuition assistance fund.

Donations can also be mailed to:
Office of Catholic Schools
7887 Walmsley Ave.
New Orleans, LA 70125

Potential gap in financial aid per year: $1.5 million

There are many parents who want to send their children to Catholic schools but find they cannot afford the cost. Who are these parents? They are:

• Teachers in our Catholic schools who cannot afford to send their own children to our schools
• Parents who qualify for tuition tax rebate programs but cannot afford the gap in tuition costs
• Middle-class Catholic parents who cannot afford multiple Catholic school tuitions. Even families with a good income - say $100,000 - would have difficulty affording multiple Catholic school tuitions
• Parents of any faith who want their children to experience the values and virtues of our Catholic schools
CONTACT US

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