



THE DIOCESE OF KALAMAZOO

Office of the Bishop

January 30, 2017

Dear Catholic School Educators,

It is a great joy for me to take this wonderful occasion of *Catholic Schools Week* to both congratulate you on all your fine work and to thank you for your steadfast commitment to Catholic school education in the Diocese of Kalamazoo. It is evident in each interaction and visit I have in our schools that you and the entire staff are hard at work inspiring our young students and strengthening them with the mystery and the beauty of our faith.

This year's theme, "Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service," is one that is clearly illustrated within all aspects of the Catholic Schools in our Diocese. The inspiring witness of our students serving their communities, the academic excellence they achieve and the beautiful way they participate in the sacramental life of the Church is all made possible by your commitment.

Experts in the field of education will say that the most effective educators combine energy, passion, enthusiasm, fun and humor into their teaching methods. In our Catholic schools we have the added benefit of adding in a strong measure of our faith – woven into everything we do. Thank you for your witness and for being worthy of shaping our young children of God.

Catholic school education is an essential mission of the Church and a vital part of the educational ministry of the Diocese of Kalamazoo. Please be assured of my heartfelt prayers for you, your Catholic school students and your families that you may be blessed in this New Year.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

+ *Paul J. Bradley*

Most Rev. Paul J. Bradley
Bishop of Kalamazoo