

STATEMENT FROM BISHOP MURRY ON

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

JANUARY 29 - FEBRUARY 4

The National Catholic Educational Association has established the theme of Catholic Schools Week for 2017 as **Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service**. Catholic schools are integral to our nation's character, serving the common good, strengthening local communities, and building the Kingdom of God on earth.

Nearly 2 million students are currently educated in 6,525 Catholic schools in cities, suburbs, small towns and rural communities around the country. Students receive an education that prepares them for higher education, a competitive work environment, and most importantly, living a Christian life of virtue in a challenging society. This week highlights the educational and community successes of Catholic schools around the country. One example is that an estimated 99 percent of students graduate from Catholic high schools and 86 percent of those graduates go on to attend college.

During Catholic Schools Week, schools and parishes throughout our diocese will hold activities such as Masses, open houses, and pot luck gatherings to celebrate their schools. For more information, contact the school nearest you or go to our website www.doy.org, click on Diocesan Offices and then click on Catholic Schools.

Catholic schools are an investment in our future and teach our students to strive for college and heaven. Together, let us celebrate them and thank our many dedicated teachers, administrators and staff for their commitment to this vital mission of the Church.