



Diocese of Orlando
Secretariat for Education

2021 --- 2022

Annual Report

"Made in God's Image"

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Most Reverend John Noonan
Bishop of Orlando

Ms. Teresa Simon
Chancellor for Administration

Mr. Henry Fortier
Secretary for Education
and Superintendent of Catholic Schools

Dr. Jacquelyn Flanigan
Associate Superintendent of Catholic Schools

Ms. Patricia Dailey
Associate Superintendent of Catholic Schools

Mr. Kevin Casey
CFO/Director of Financial Services

Very Rev. Timothy LaBo, V.F.
Chair and Pastor, Resurrection, St. Anthony and St.
Joseph Catholic Schools

Mrs. Maureen Brockman
Vice President of Embrace Families
Foundation

Dr. Katherine C. Clark
Retired Orange County School Principal;
Director of Ministry to the Sick at Sts. Peter & Paul
Catholic Church, Winter Park

Rev. Matthew Mello
Pastor, Our Lady of Hope Catholic Church

Mr. Lou Pereira
President, Trinity Catholic High School
Representing High Schools

Ms. Patricia Kahle
Principal, Annunciation Catholic Academy
Representing Elementary Schools

Mr. James Cooney
Retired Associate Superintendent
Diocese of Orlando

Sister Barbara T. Gould, RSM, Ed.D
Retired Catholic School Superintendent

■ A Message from Bishop Noonan

My Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

What does it mean to love one another? This love is born out of our creation by God, made in His image and likeness. God loves us into being, to be a part of Him and He prefers us above all others. We alone have been made capable of knowing and loving as God does. We alone, “of all visible creatures” are “called to share, by knowledge and love, in God’s own life” (CCC 356).

Made in the image of the Triune God, we are called to be human not in isolation, but in communion with others. Pope Francis tells us that we are made in the image of God and because of this inherent communion with God, we are called “to take care and respect all creatures and to nourish love and compassion for our brothers and sisters.” We are called to imitate God’s love for us, just as His Son Jesus did who became one of us to share with us and save us.

Jesus teaches us that God is good and that we too are good; that everything about us is given to us by God as a reflection, an image of His goodness. We are called to be His House of Bread; for it is Jesus the Eucharist who gives us the power and the strength to be in solidarity with the poor, the lowly, and the forsaken.

As you prayerfully open this annual report, praise God for the beauty of each one whose labor in the Lord brings Jesus into our daily lives; all the parents, students, teachers, administrators, volunteers, clergy, and religious sisters. Praise God that the image of Him is found in each one of these.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Reverend John Noonan
Bishop of the Diocese of Orlando

*This is the message
you have heard from
the beginning: we
should love one
another.*

(1 John 3:11)





Secretariat for Education Staff

Mr. Henry Fortier
Secretary for Education
and Superintendent of Catholic Schools

Dr. Jacquelyn Flanigan
Associate Superintendent of Catholic
Schools

Ms. Patricia Dailey
Associate Superintendent of Catholic
Schools

Mrs. Jacqueline Abrahams
Director of School Finance

Dr. Isabel Fernandez
Director of Mission Effectiveness

Mrs. Margie Garland-Aguilar
Director of Instructional Technology

Mrs. Linda Caldwell
Director of Marketing, Central Region

Mrs. Maria Del Amo
Director of Marketing, Western Region

Mrs. Dawn Melcher
Director of Marketing, Eastern Region

Ms. Shelley Bosko
Director of Accreditation, Early Childhood
and Special Programs

Ms. Phyllis Mann
Administrative Assistant

Mrs. Evelyn Garcia
Administrative Assistant

Sister Bernadette Mackay, O.S.U.
Director, Mission Office

Mr. Randall Pinner
Director, San Pedro Center



Our Mission

Catholic schools in the Diocese of Orlando proclaim the Gospel message within an academic environment of excellence that challenges students to be creative and critical thinkers who integrate faith, moral leadership and compassionate service in order to create a more just and humane world.

■ A Message from Superintendent Henry Fortier

May the peace of Christ be with you!

“The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus” (Evangelii Gaudium, 1). In the opening line of Pope Francis’ Apostolic Exhortation, he shares how an encounter with Jesus impacts our lives. As you look through the 2021-2022 Annual Report for the Education Secretariat in the Diocese of Orlando, you will see the joy our students and staff experience because they encounter Jesus in many ways within their Catholic school communities.

Catholic schools in the United States were formed as a way to evangelize and pass on the teaching of our faith. This mission continues nearly 400 years later. Our students attended more than 280 retreats last year, participated in regular mass, prayed the rosary, offered thousands of hours in service to others, and shared in many other activities rooted in our Catholic traditions. At the same time, they excelled academically, outperforming other private and public schools throughout the nation.

Our theme for the 2021-2022 school year was “Made in God’s Image.” Our school communities honored the dignity and sanctity of human life through professional development, instruction, activities, worship and prayer, and charitable acts service. It is through these acts of living out the Gospels that our students encounter Jesus and experience the joy that only He can provide.

Our theme was also reflected in the good works and ministry of the people of the San Pedro Spiritual Development Center as well as our Mission Office, as they shared their gifts in service so others may know and love Jesus.

I would like to thank you for being a partner in this ministry of Catholic education. It is through your support and participation that we were able to serve more than 13,400 children, ages infant through 12th grade, in our 40 schools and Early Childhood Centers. Our job is to make future saints who will lead and serve our Church and communities. The life that was given to them by God, is meant to be given back to God in service to others.

Thank you again for making Catholic education possible.



May God bless you.

Henry Fortier
Henry Fortier

Secretary for Education |
Superintendent of Catholic Schools

■ Those We Serve

There are **40 Catholic Schools** in the Diocese of Orlando, serving infants, toddlers, and students PreK through 12th grade. Schools are located in Brevard, Lake, Marion, Orange, Osceola, Polk, Seminole, and Volusia counties. In addition, we support five Catholic Schools in our sister diocese, the Diocese of San Juan de la Maguana in the Dominican Republic.

Brevard County

Melbourne Central Catholic High School*
Ascension Catholic School*
Holy Name of Jesus Catholic School*
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School
Our Saviour Catholic School*
St. Joseph Catholic School, Palm Bay*
St. Mary Catholic School*
St. Teresa Catholic School

Lake County

St. Paul Catholic School

Marion County

Trinity Catholic High School
Blessed Trinity Catholic School

Orange County

Bishop Moore Catholic High School
Good Shepherd Catholic School*
Holy Family Catholic School*
Morning Star Catholic School
Resurrection Catholic Church Preschool
St. Andrew Catholic School*
St. Charles Borromeo Catholic School*
St. James Cathedral School*
St. John Vianney Catholic School*
St. Margaret Mary Catholic School*
St. Patrick Early Learning Center

Osceola County

Holy Redeemer Catholic School
St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School

Polk County

Santa Fe Catholic High School
Neumann Early Learning Academy
Resurrection Catholic School*
St. Anthony Catholic School
St. Joseph Catholic School, Winter Haven

Seminole County

All Souls Catholic School*
Annunciation Catholic Academy*
St. Mary Magdalen Catholic School*
Sts. Peter and Paul Early Learning Center

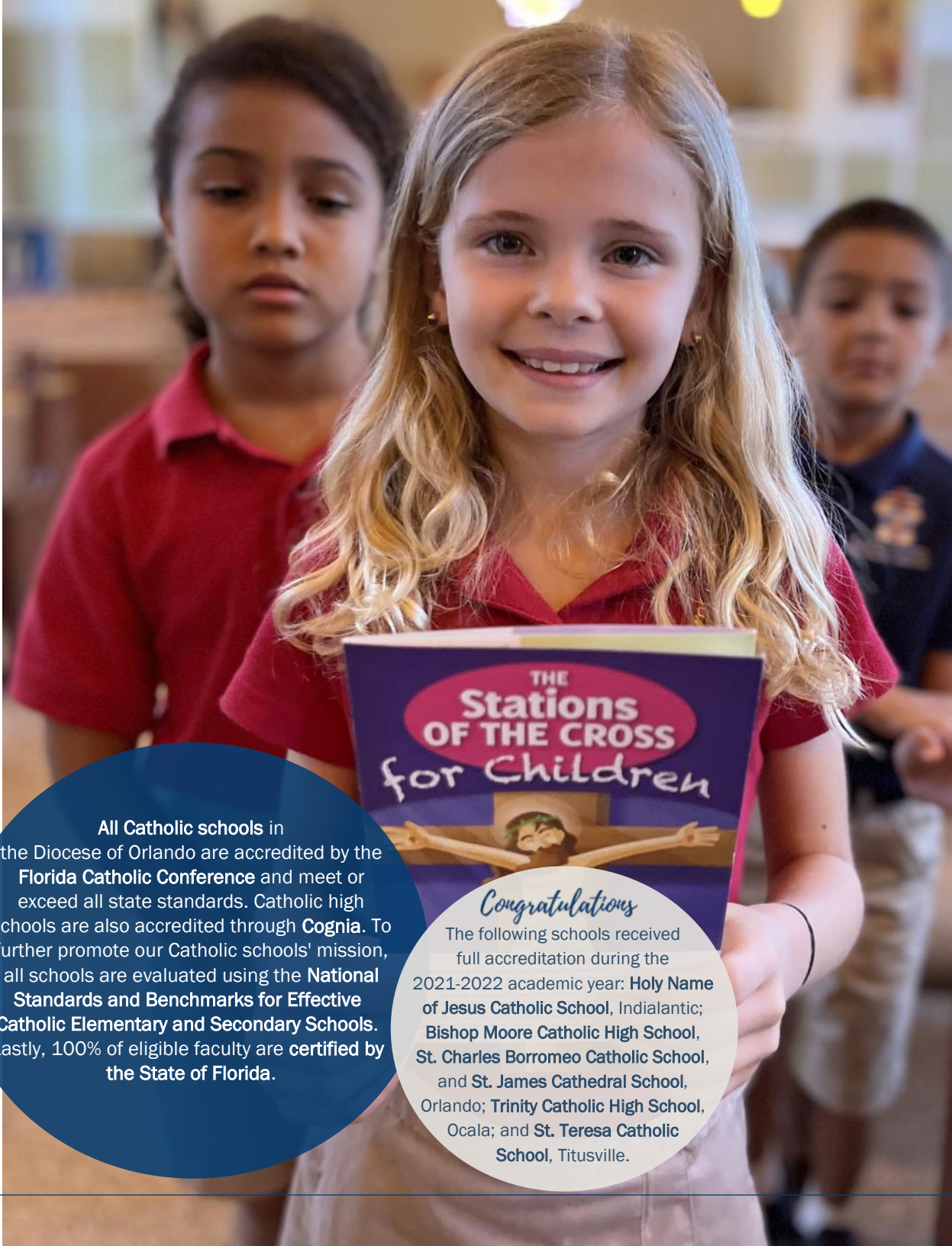
Volusia County

Father Lopez Catholic High School
Basilica School of St. Paul
Little Blessings Preschool
Lourdes Academy*
Sacred Heart Catholic School*
St. Brendan Catholic School
St. Peter Catholic School

Dominican Republic

Centro San Pablo
Centro Sagrada Familia
Nuestra Senora de Altagracia
Centro San Francisco de Asis
San Maximilian Kolbe Middle School

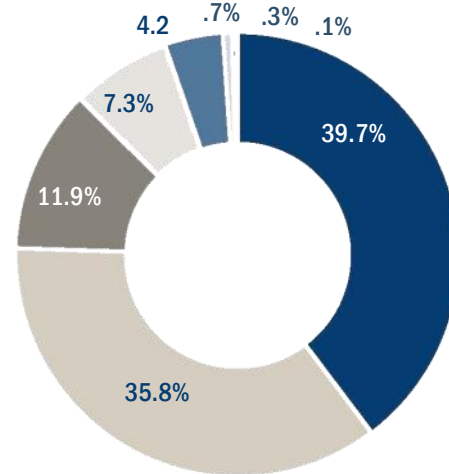
* Indicates a U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon School of Excellence



All Catholic schools in the Diocese of Orlando are accredited by the **Florida Catholic Conference** and meet or exceed all state standards. Catholic high schools are also accredited through **Cognia**. To further promote our Catholic schools' mission, all schools are evaluated using the **National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools**. Lastly, 100% of eligible faculty are **certified by the State of Florida**.

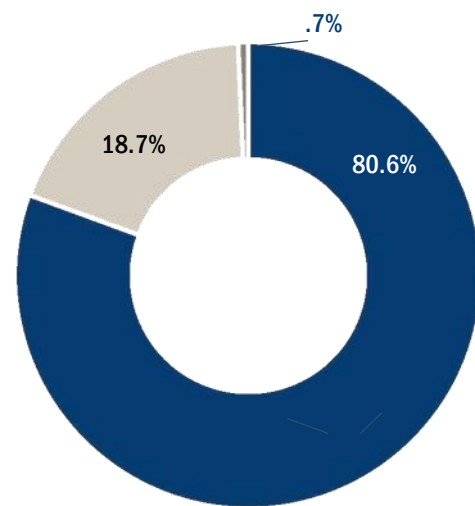
Congratulations

The following schools received full accreditation during the 2021-2022 academic year: **Holy Name of Jesus Catholic School**, Indialantic; **Bishop Moore Catholic High School**, St. Charles Borromeo Catholic School, and **St. James Cathedral School**, Orlando; **Trinity Catholic High School**, Ocala; and **St. Teresa Catholic School**, Titusville.



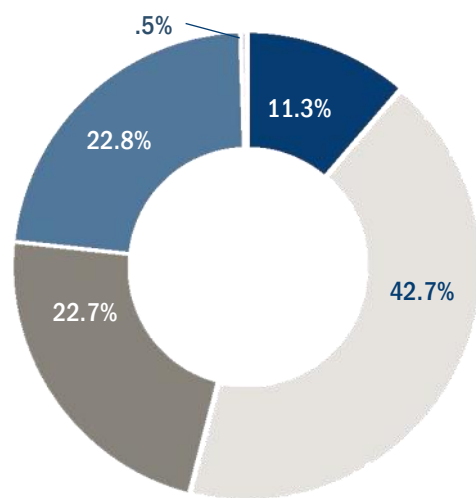
Ethnicity

- White (5,322)
- Hispanic (4,802)
- Multi-race (1,592)
- Black (975)
- Asian (571)
- Unknown (92)
- Hawaiian/Pacific Island (40)
- Native American (19)



Religious Affiliation

- Catholic (10,809)
- Non-Catholic (2,507)
- Unknown (97)



Grade Level

- Infant*—PreK (1,519)
- Elementary (K-5) (5,722)
- Middle (6-8) (3,049)
- High School (9-12) (3,058)
- Morning Star (65)

* Note: We do not track the ethnicity or religious affiliation of our infants and toddlers; therefore, this age group is not reflected in those two charts.

■ Spiritually Centered

288

formal retreats were held for students and/or faculty

60%

of our 8th grade graduates matriculated to Catholic high schools



congratulations!

Tiary,

an 8th grade student at St. Anthony Catholic School, winner of the 2022 Marian Essay Contest. Tiary reflected on the idea that to imitate Mary, we must open our hearts to God's voice and messages we receive in our daily lives.



■ Hearts of Service



141,596+
Documented service hours.

300+
Major service projects conducted by our students in PreK-12th grade!



Every year, the Office of Catholic Schools presents the **St. Teresa of Calcutta Award** to one PreK-8 school and one high school in recognition for service projects completed during the academic year. Projects are based on the seven Corporal Works of Mercy: feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, bury the dead, shelter the traveler, comfort the sick, and free the imprisoned. Congratulations to **St. Joseph Catholic School, Winter Haven** and **Morning Star Catholic School** high school students, recipients of the 2021-2022 award!

Here is a *sampling* of the numerous service projects our students undertook this year!

- All Souls Catholic School** – Students paid tribute to veterans. Local veterans are honored at event.
- Annunciation Catholic Academy** – Kindergarteners held a bake sale to raise funds for The CURE Starts Now DIPG.
- Ascension Catholic School** – Students made toiletry bags for the homeless, postcards to veterans, and a lot more!
- Basilica School of St. Paul** – Students held a Walkathon for Ukraine, and the Middle School packed seeds for the Dominican Republic.
- Bishop Moore Catholic High School** – BMCrafts of Mercy delivered pillow packages to Orlando Union Rescue Mission.
- Blessed Trinity Catholic School** – Students made more than 560 Blessing Bags to share with others.
- Father Lopez Catholic High School** – Again, students held a Homeless Lockout to raise funds and experience the plight of many.
- Good Shepherd Catholic School** – Students made blankets for the needy as part of their Lenten Retreat.
- Holy Family Catholic School** – PK-4 brought the story of Stone Soup alive by collecting canned food items and donating them to their friends at the St. Vincent de Paul Society.
- Holy Name of Jesus Catholic School** – Students held a toy drive to help make Christmas brighter for other children.
- Holy Redeemer Catholic School** – Students gave generously to the five collections for our sister diocese in the Dominican Republic.
- Lourdes Academy** – Students made 82 care bags to give to children in foster care.
- Melbourne Central Catholic High School** – Students opened their hearts and helped the sick by giving blood.
- Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School** – Students collected food to help make Thanksgiving possible for the less fortunate.
- Our Saviour Catholic School** – Food collections, toothpaste drives for our sister diocese, coin wars, shoe collections, recycling initiative, choir, and altar serving are just a few examples of how OSCS students provide service for their community.
- Resurrection Catholic School** – Students participated in these projects: Box of Joy, Stock the Food Pantry, and Change for Life Baby Bottle Drive.
- Sacred Heart Catholic School** – 250 colorful backpacks filled with hygiene products and beautifully handmade cards were packed by students and delivered to the local soup kitchen in New Smyrna Beach.
- Santa Fe Catholic High School** – Throughout their time at SFCHS, each student performs 100 hours of community service.
- St. Andrew Catholic School** – First grade students participated in the Change for Life - Baby Bottle Drive .
- St. Anthony Catholic School** – The school partnered with Great Bedtime Story Pajama Drive to get pajamas to those in need in the community.
- St. Brendan Catholic School** – Fifth grade took a field trip to the beach to clean up.
- St. Charles Borromeo Catholic School** – Students collected 106 pairs of shoes for the children in the Dominican Republic.
- St. James Cathedral School** – Students led a sock collection called “Warm the Soles.”
- St. John Vianney Catholic School** – Students raised \$3,030.50 during their Change for Life Baby Bottle Drive!
- St. Joseph Catholic School, Palm Bay** – Among the school’s many projects were Scoop of Soup and Brevard Humane Society Drive.
- St. Margaret Mary Catholic School** – With the help of their 8th grade buddies, kindergarteners packed 300 lunches for the Coalition of the Homeless of Central Florida.
- St. Mary Catholic School** – Students prepped and packed food for The Children’s Hunger Project.
- St. Mary Magdalen Catholic School** – Go Baby Go, Living Gospel Values, Peace Orphanage Collection were among the projects at SMM!
- St. Paul Catholic School** – 6th grade students did an amazing job on “CleanUp Day” Monday during Catholic Schools Week.
- St. Peter Catholic School** – Third grade students held a Shoe Drive, while others made Christmas cards for nursing home residents.
- St. Teresa Catholic School** – Older students serve the parish as altar servers during weekday, weekend, and special Masses.
- St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School** – Students donated 541 tubes of toothpaste to the our sister diocese in the Dominican Republic.
- Trinity Catholic High School** – Students held a food drive and raised money to benefit the Arnette House!

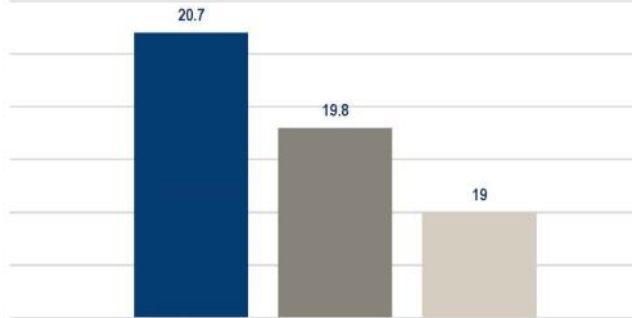
Academically Engaged and Enriched

Academic excellence is the hallmark of a Diocese of Orlando Catholic School education, and the proof is in our test scores. On average, our 11th grade students continue score higher on the ACT test than **graduating seniors** nationwide, as well as across the state. In our elementary/middle schools, our students continually score above state and national norms on standardized testing.



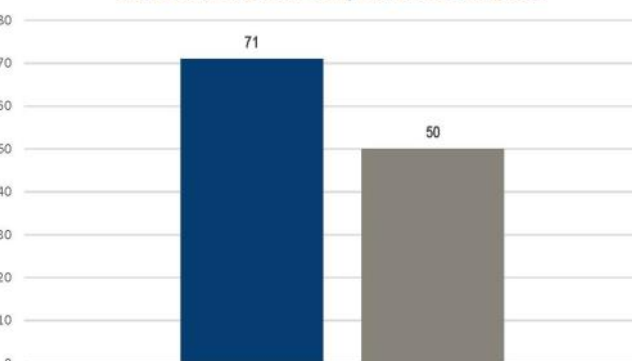
2022 ACT Results

(Diocese of Orlando High School Juniors vs. Graduating Seniors)



■ Diocese of Orlando Juniors ■ National Graduating Seniors
■ Florida Graduating Seniors

2021-2022 8th Grade Composite Terra Nova Score



■ Diocese of Orlando ■ National

Congratulations!

Resurrection Catholic School, Lakeland, received STREAM (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, and Math) accreditation from the Florida Catholic Conference of Bishops. It is the second school in the diocese to earn STREAM credentials!

■ Athletics and Extracurriculars



7,238
 Number of registered participants in K-8 sports. Most of our schools are part of the Catholic Youth Sports Association and compete against each other and other private schools.



6
 Number of regional championships won by our high schools

17
 Number of district championships won by our high schools

Congratulations!
 to our high school state champions!
Hailey B. — All-American, Javelin at the Adidas Outdoor Nationals
Bishop Moore Girls' Soccer
Eli D. — Boys' Weightlifting
Santa Fe Catholic Football SSAC 3A Champions



63
 Number of high school graduates who received an athletic scholarship



New extracurricular activities introduced at our PreK-8th grade schools!
 Charity Club, Drama, Sanford Welcome Center Art Show, two 5th grade co-ed volleyball teams, Drone Cub, Liturgy Club, Knitting Club, Chess Club, Homework Club, Robotics Club, STEM Club, D&D Club, ORFF Ensemble, Band, Percussion Ensemble, Maker Mondays, Cheerleaders Club, Readers Club, Dinoworld, Enchanted Engineering, Impact Dance, PreK Art Adventures, PreK Core Sports, PreK Space, PreK-5th Drama, Junior Players, Lego Club, Musical Theater, Math Club, Guitar, Piano

■ Morning Star Catholic School



2
Number of spiritual retreats held for students.



4
students graduated!

Our high school started a new community service group, **Charity Club**. Throughout the year, we gave back to our communities. We made food baskets for those in need, held Dress Down for Donation Days to collect funds for Imprint Hope, made women's bags for Mother's Cupboard every month, hosted several class service projects, and conducted a Supply Drive for displaced families in Ukraine. We received the St. Teresa of Calcutta Award for our efforts!



Winston H., Liam B., Julius V., Jessica B., Giannah C., and Bryan R. made their Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion! Tyler M. and Meagan M. also made their Sacrament of First Reconciliation!



We rolled out new report cards and student transcripts!

Founded in 1960 by the Sisters of St. Joseph of St. Augustine, Morning Star Catholic School provides students with special needs the opportunity to discover their gifts and achieve their personal best as children of God.

■ Early Childhood Education

100%

of our Early Learning Centers are accredited by the Florida Catholic Conference.

1,519

Number of children, ages six weeks to four years old, served in our Early Learning programs.

100%

of our elementary schools offer Early Learning Programs

After a brief hiatus because of COVID, we brought back the **Early Learning Educator Professional Development Day**. One hundred and fifty infant, toddler, Pre-K, VPK, and kindergarten educators from throughout the diocese gathered at Holy Family Catholic School on Sept. 3.



■ Elementary/Middle Schools



Congratulations to Holy Family Catholic School on the celebration of its Silver Jubilee in September 2021!

8,771

Number of K-8 students served in our schools.

Congratulations to the following schools that celebrated their 60th Anniversary in 2021: Sacred Heart Catholic School, Ascension Catholic School, St. Mary Magdalen Catholic School, St. Paul Catholic School, and St. Teresa Catholic School.

Diocese of Orlando Catholic School instruction offers a solid foundation in Florida educational standards, enriched in religion, foreign language, fine arts, computer science, and physical education. Our schools' cross-curricular, hands-on approach to learning utilizes technology, promotes creativity, and actively engages students to discover, inquire about, and improve the world around them.

Here are a few of awards and recognitions our students and schools received during the academic year:

- St. Margaret Mary Catholic School was named City of Winter Park Outstanding Educational Institute!
- A 7th grade student in an Orange County school was the State Champion in the Knights of Columbus Spelling Bee for the third year in a row!
- Twenty Middle School students at a Seminole County school received Presidential Academic Honors. To qualify for this award, a student must average 90% or higher in grades during all three years of Middle School and must score in the top 15% in standardized test score in math and reading.
- Fourteen members of a Brevard County school's "The Science Research Team" won first place in the Regional Science and Engineering Fair.
- One of our Volusia County Catholic Schools is known for the artistic talents of its students. We were pleased, once again, to learn that several students won or placed in the Halifax Art Festival.
- 8th grade student, Ava Q., won third prize in the Maryknoll Student Essay Contest.
- Students from an Orange County school received the following honors — Zaner Bloser Handwriting Award, Knights of Columbus Keep Christ in Christmas Essay Contest, oration contest, regional art contest, science contest, and Noetic Math Contest.
- A coastal school took top honors in the Knights of Columbus Spelling Bee, an essay contest and soccer challenge.
- A Polk County school claimed three first place finishes, eight second place finishes, and nine third place finishes in a variety of art, language arts, performing arts, robotics, social studies, speech, and technology competitions.
- Three Brevard County students placed first in their respective categories in the Daughters of the American Revolution Essay Contest.
- Barb P. and Pam W. won the Florida Agricultural Award for their Fish Farm Project.
- Junior Thespians at an Orange County School won the Critic's Choice Award in a regional theatrical competition.

■ High Schools

100%
of high school seniors graduated.

97%
of our graduates
headed to college or
the military.

563
number of colleges in
which our graduates
were accepted.

9
high school students
were National Merit
Scholars

More than
\$41.6 million
Amount of money our 685
graduates earned in
scholarships.

3,058
Number of high school
students served in our
schools.

Congratulations to Central Catholic High School for serving the Melbourne community for 60 years!

Congratulations!

to our high school valedictorians!

Charlene Go and Drew Murphy
Bishop Moore Catholic High School

Caroline Chanfrau
Father Lopez Catholic High School

Michael Arroyo
Santa Fe Catholic High School

Isabel Rosa Martinez
Trinity Catholic High School

Sophia Bastida, Daniel Breisch, Christina Cabrera, Emma Cassidy, Kailyn Chiuchiolo, Patrick Corley, Anna Grace Cornell, Aislynn Dalessandro, Jenna du Mee, Alejandro Garcia, Carlo Gozzi, Madison Haire, Megan Haire, Morgan Haire, Katherine Harnden, Haley Keller, Megan MacKay, Mason McCormack, Dominik Quiroz, Kelly Rush, Kylie Sepulveda, Mai Tran
Melbourne Central Catholic High School

■ Top Educators



Ms. Cathy Marshall, principal at St. John Vianney Catholic School, Orlando, was named recipient the **2021 Jenni Heneghan Distinguished Leadership Award**, named in honor of the late Jennifer Heneghan. The award is presented annually to an educator who exemplifies Jenni's spirit, faith life and professionalism.



100%

of our eligible faculty are state-certified.

25%

of our faculty have taught in the Diocese of Orlando 10 or more years. 72 have taught here for 25 years or more.

39%

of our faculty hold advanced degrees.

Welcome new principals!

We were pleased to name Mrs. Labreche and Mrs. Vassou as new principals at the beginning of the school year.



Mrs. Elizabeth Labreche was named principal of Sacred Heart Catholic School, New Smyrna Beach. Mrs. Labreche has a long tenure at the Diocese of Orlando, holding various positions at St. John

Vianney and St. James Catholic schools in Orlando, and St. Margaret Mary Catholic School in Winter Park.



Mrs. Tammie Vassou, was named principal at Trinity Catholic High School. She came to our diocese via the Diocese of St. Augustine where she was a principal for Queen of Peace Catholic Academy, as well as a teacher and director of technology.

2021-2022 Distinguished Teachers

as selected by their school leaders



Every year, the Office of Catholic Schools recognizes one extraordinary teacher from each school. Selected by the school's administration, the honorees are presented with the **Diocese of Orlando Distinguished Catholic School Educator Award** during OCS annual **Educator Kick-Off event**. We are pleased to present the diocese's top teachers for 2021-2022.

Early Learning Centers



Nazly Cabral

Annunciation Catholic Academy,
Altamonte Springs



Wanda Sage

Little Blessing Early Learning Center,
Deltona



Maria Smith

Neumann Early Learning Academy,
Lakeland



Mary Wojerski

Sts. Peter and Paul Early Learning Center,
Winter Park

K-8 Teachers



Hope Lugo

All Souls Catholic School, Sanford



Tammy Hammett

Annunciation Catholic Academy,
Altamonte Springs



Donna Potomski

Ascension Catholic School,
Melbourne



Anne Bibik

Basilica School of St. Paul, Daytona Beach



Carmen Maisonet

Blessed Trinity Catholic School, Ocala



Clare Collins

Good Shepherd Catholic School, Orlando



Thomas Hamm

Holy Family Catholic School, Orlando



Kathi Arms

Holy Name of Jesus Catholic School,
Indialantic



Lorry Held

Holy Redeemer Catholic School,
Kissimmee



Karen Larson

Lourdes Academy, Daytona Beach



Kelly Hunt

Morning Star Catholic School, Orlando



Dawn Saladino

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School,
Melbourne



Danielle Harris

Our Saviour Catholic School, Cocoa Beach



Karena Ginn

Resurrection Catholic School, Lakeland



Dana Ripa

Sacred Heart Catholic School,
New Smyrna Beach



Roselene Hayes

St. Andrew Catholic School, Orlando



Jennifer Zahn

St. Anthony Catholic School, Lakeland



Doreen Dunn

St. Brendan Catholic School, Ormond Beach



Lisa Bobowicz

St. Charles Borromeo Catholic School,
Orlando



Jamie Gutweniger

St. James Cathedral School, Orlando



Breylin Blanco

St. John Vianney Catholic School, Orlando



Ronda Degan

St. Joseph Catholic School, Palm Bay



Laura Hengesbach

St. Joseph Catholic School, Winter Haven



Gretchen Hale

St. Margaret Mary Catholic School,
Winter Park



Becky Smith

St. Mary Catholic School, Rockledge



Shannon Walker

St. Mary Magdalen Catholic School,
Altamonte Springs



Daniel Mauro

St. Paul Catholic School, Leesburg



Donna Wilkins

St. Peter Catholic School, Deland



Cynthia Mawn

St. Teresa Catholic School, Titusville



Melissa Ryan

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School,
St. Cloud

High Schools



Robert McCall

Bishop Moore Catholic High School,
Orlando



Noah Cabioc

Father Lopez Catholic High School,
Daytona Beach



Mary Byrnes

Melbourne Central Catholic High School,
Melbourne



Paul Safara

Santa Fe Catholic High School, Lakeland



Mike Young

Trinity Catholic High School, Ocala

News Makers

New OCS position focuses on early childhood education



The Office of Catholic Schools introduced a new staff position – Director of Accreditation, Early Childhood and Special Programs, which initially is focusing on the needs of our youngest learners. Filling the role is Ms. Shelley Bosko.

Ms. Bosko brings a wealth of experience to the position, including 35 years in early childhood education, 12 years as an adjunct professor for early childhood education students, five years as an associate dean for Academics at a community college, and more than 20 years with accrediting early childhood programs and college level academic programs.

Here are the accomplishments made throughout the year:

- Curriculum and academic standards review for 0 – 5 year olds.
- Information on the training needs of the early childhood teachers gathered.
- Early Educator Professional Development Day in the fall was reinstated.
- The PreK Developmental Progress Report was updated to align with the State of Florida early learning and developmental standards.
- Directors, teachers and principals were provided training and assistance with the Florida Catholic Conference Accreditation process for early childhood programs.

They may have left our buildings, but not our hearts

We bid “Happy Retirement” to two long-time leaders who served our communities as teachers and leaders for a combined 49 years.

Deborah Schwope, principal of Resurrection Catholic School, Lakeland.

Education has been Mrs. Schwope’s life work since she started teaching in 1986. She arrived in the Diocese of Orlando 12 years later and served first as assistant principal at Resurrection and later principal of St. Joseph Catholic School in Winter Haven. By December 2012, Resurrection coaxed her return as principal where she remained for the duration of her career. In that time, the self-ascribed “school whisperer” more than doubled the student enrollment at both St. Joseph and Resurrection.

“Mrs. Schwope has dedicated her life to Catholic education. She has lived a life of service for her students and families within Polk County,” said Superintendent Henry Fortier. He noted being particularly grateful for her “stepping in at Resurrection during a difficult time and transforming the school to being a leader in Catholic education within the Lakeland area.”

Mrs. Schwope explained she has a “God-given talent to be able to intuit what people need and answer their questions and walk with them, so they have a comfort level in the school they have chosen.”

That ability has served her well, but listening is also a critical part of her service.

“I am big on the Holy Spirit and He is part of my world. I rely on Him to have me at the right place, at the right time, or have me do things I need to do,” she said. “Sometimes God whispers in my ear, and I have to listen.”



Sandy Basinger, principal of St. Mary Catholic School, Rockledge.

Mrs. Basinger wanted to be a teacher from the early age of 5. She recalled sitting her little brother down and trying to teach him phonics. “It’s always been in my blood,” she said.

When she pulled into St. Mary’s parking lot in 1997, she knew it was where the Holy Spirit wanted her. “My heart belongs here,” she said searching for the right words to explain herself. She accepted the job and enrolled her three children, who all graduated from St. Mary’s.

Mrs. Basinger’s entire career, 25 years in education, has been in the halls of St. Mary, with the last 11 as principal. Many of St. Mary’s teachers have been there almost as long as Basinger.

“We have built a community here. We’re kind of like a family,” she said proudly. “The teachers know I care about who they are, and they care about me.”

“She has dedicated her life to forming our children in the faith,” Superintendent Fortier said. “She is a shining example of faith in action. ... Her gentle nurturing presence allows those she meets to tangibly experience the love of Christ.”

— Glenda Meekins, Florida Catholic Media staff



Mrs. Basinger was named recipient of the 2017 Jenni Heneghan Leadership Award, named in honor of the late Mrs. Heneghan. The award is presented annually to one principal who exemplifies Mrs. Heneghan’s spirit and professionalism.

Longtime OCS staff member retires as well



The Office of Catholic Schools also noted the retirement of longtime administrative assistant **Mrs. Kathy Martin**. Mrs. Martin joined the OCS staff in June 2005 to serve the associate superintendents. Throughout the years, her role evolved to include handling office finances, event planning, and overseeing foreign exchange students.

While we were sad to bid Kathy farewell, we were happy to welcome **Mrs. Evelyn Garcia** to the team as the new administrative assistant. Mrs. Garcia brings a wealth of diocesan experience to the role. She began her tenure in our schools in 1997 as a teaching assistant and ultimately



Administrative Assistant/Registrar at St. Andrew Catholic School. In 2016, she went to St. John Vianney Catholic School to work in the Institutional Advancement office. When SJV transitioned into the Dual Language Program, she became the Enrollment/Admissions Coordinator, which she enjoyed.

“I’m very excited that I have the opportunity to join the team and not only work for one school but for many throughout the diocese, where I can share my God-given talents,” she said.

Welcome!

St. Peter Catholic School in Deland welcomed two sisters from the Missionary Sisters of the Holy Family congregation, based in Kankakee, IL, to its faculty. **Sister Magdalena Grymuza** (top) teaches second grade, and **Sister Beata Fiedorczyk** (bottom) teaches Middle School religion. We are so happy to have you as part of our family!





U.S. Olympian visits alma mater

Before she was a three-time speedskating Olympian, Brittany Bowe was known as No. 5 on the women's basketball team playing for the **Trinity Catholic High School**.

The 34-year-old won a bronze medal at the 1,000-meter speed-skating event during the 2022 Beijing Olympic Winter Games in February 2022. As part of a two-day welcome home celebration in Ocala on March 25, she visited her alma mater and was greeted by high school friends, faculty, staff, and a Trinity Catholic High School assembly of 525 students.



The 2006 alumna said the faith-based foundation formed during her years at Blessed Trinity Catholic School and Trinity “has shaped me to who I am today, and I give all the glory to God. (My faith and belief) help strengthen my identity and help me through hard times, then it makes the great times even more glorious.”

After Brittany spoke, her alma mater unveiled the “Brittany Bowe Character in Athletics Award,” which will honor senior athletes who display acts of selfless service and humility in all things, demonstrate high character and model outstanding sportsmanship.

“It’s an incredible honor to represent the United States of America on the biggest sports stage,” Brittany said. “It makes it even more amazing to share that with the people who have supported me along the way. To be here in Ocala and at Trinity is a blessing.”

— Dana Szigeti, *Special to the Florida Catholic*

OCS initiates proactive measures to thwart cyber-attacks in schools

During the last few years, the number of cyber-attacks have been on the rise, and schools are amongst the list of those vulnerable entities. School districts across the county have been victims of ransomware, phishing, and other cyber-attacks.

In November 2021, the Office of Catholic Schools (OCS) assembled a team of technology directors from across the diocese to develop an assessment tool used to measure our schools’ vulnerability to such attacks and provide guidance to mitigate potential risks. The assessment tool was developed using the controls recommended by Homeland Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency. These controls were designed to strengthen cybersecurity and infrastructure protection by targeting weak areas of potential threat.

The Diocesan Cybersecurity Plan was finalized and presented to the Catholic school leaders in May 2022. In collaboration with the Office of Risk Management, the assessment tool was cross referenced with the criteria necessary to ensure all of our schools meet the requirements to qualify for cybersecurity insurance.

During the summer of 2022, onsite visits were completed at all K-12 schools throughout the diocese to audit current protocols and infrastructure in order to develop a school-based plan to meet the minimum requirement to protect sensitive data. The OCS continues to work with each school on continued improvement to reduce any vulnerabilities.

In addition, schools are implementing digital citizenship curriculum for staff and students to become more diligent in identified dangerous cyber threats and to provide ways to identify and prevent a breach in cyber security.

Increased awareness and mitigating tools will continue to be part of the Office of Catholic Schools Emergency Management Plan and policies developed to provide steps in reporting a cyber incident and measures to mitigate cyberattack when they occur.

The aftermath of COVID: Schools receive service support from federal relief funding

Catholic schools in the Diocese of Orlando participated in federal pandemic relief funding that has been beneficial in both helping to keep our schools safe and hygienic, in stopping the spread of the Coronavirus early in the pandemic and currently in supporting our schools in the academic “recovery” from the pandemic.

Under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Appropriations Act 2021 (CRSSAA), the federal government awarded non-public schools nationally with \$2.75 billion. This Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools (EANS) recognized that all schools were front-line in feeling the impact of the pandemic. Florida’s non-public schools received supporting resources and services totally approximately \$200 million. These funds are not directly distributed to schools; rather, they are made available for use on authorized expenditures as related to the pandemic.

Under the American Rescue Plan, 2021 (ARP), a second allocation, commonly referred to as EANS II appropriated another \$2.75 billion nationally but focused more on schools with a significant percentage of low-income students. Overall, the schools in our Diocese have been working with the Office of Catholic Schools to provide access to resources to support our students. Examples include air-filtration, sanitation and cleaning, resources that support social distancing; i.e. furniture, individual (rather than shared) student resources, one-to-one technology and digital access, along with tutoring and ancillary student support personnel, updated academic resources, and teacher training.

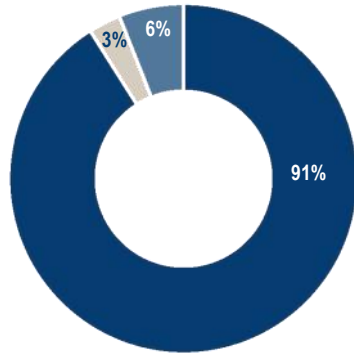
This access to funding for such expenditures is transformational at such a critical time in education. Appropriate use of this opportunity continues through summer of 2024.

Financially Sound



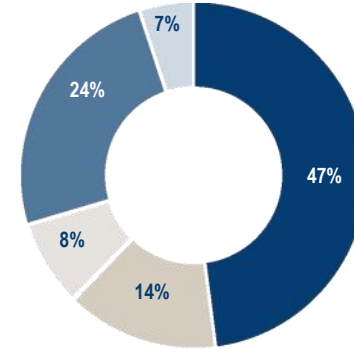
Early Learning Centers

Revenue



- Net Tuition & Fees, \$5,402,099
- Fundraising & Development Support, 190,679
- All Other, \$327,789

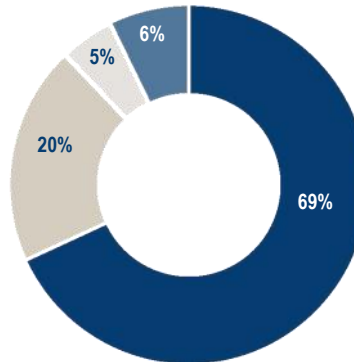
Expenses



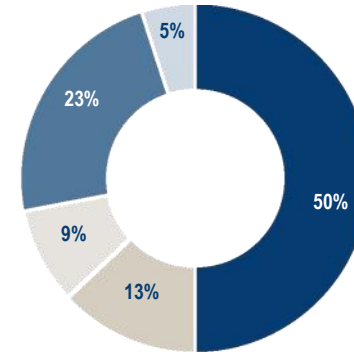
- Instructional, \$2,569,098
- Administration, \$789,155
- Plant, \$454,489
- Fixed & Other, \$1,296,603
- Ancillary, \$382,227



PreK-8 Schools



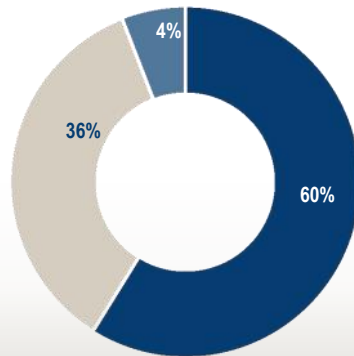
- Net Tuition & Fees, \$70,032,982
- Fundraising & Development Support, \$19,832,652
- Parish Support, \$5,595,785
- All Other, \$5,897,162



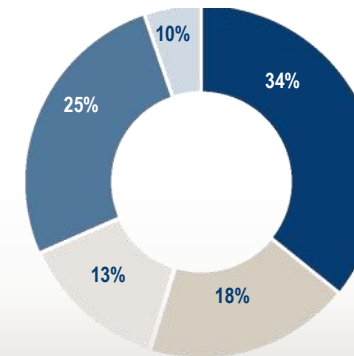
- Instructional, \$48,290,094
- Administration, \$12,581,293
- Plant, \$9,077,440
- Fixed & Other, \$21,889,189
- Ancillary & Athletics, \$4,615,071



High Schools



- Net Tuition & Fees, \$36,445,446
- Fundraising & Development Support, \$22,157,375
- All Other, \$2,123,871



- Instructional, \$14,725,250
- Administration, \$7,714,437
- Plant, \$5,585,924
- Fixed & Other, \$11,066,685
- International, Ancillary & Athletics, \$4,430,283

■ Catholic Education is Affordable

Many of our families are able to send their children to Catholic schools thanks to the following support.

Thank you!

Endowment funds provide an ongoing source of revenue for Catholic schools. Thanks to the generosity of donors through The Catholic Foundation of Central Florida, families throughout the diocese are able to realize the dream of a Catholic education for their children.

\$353,917

Amount of tuition assistance distributed from these diocesan-wide endowment funds:

AIC Tuition Assistance Endowment Fund
Adelaida Valdes Endowment Fund
Fr. Frank Zammit Endowment Fund



\$313,371

Endowment earnings distributed from the 48 additional school-specific endowment funds held at The Catholic Foundation of Central Florida. In addition to scholarships and tuition assistance, these funds also provide dollars for programs and operations.



\$11,063,886

in Catholic tuition assistance and other tuition and fee allowances offered by local parishes, schools, etc.



\$1,993,717

in VPK allowances (serving 862 students).



\$22,206,319

in Florida Tax Credit Scholarships (serving 3,293 students)



\$15,877,638

in Florida Empowerment Scholarships for Educational Options (serving 2,314 students)



\$6,138,740

in McKay Scholarships (serving 680 students).



\$3,014,885

in Florida Empowerment Scholarship for Unique Abilities (formerly Gardiner Scholarships) (serving 368 students)

Please note, children shown in photographs are not necessarily scholarship recipients.

San Pedro Spiritual Center



673
Number of participants
at our 12 Senior Day
events



247
Number of campers
who had a lot of fun
growing in their love
of Jesus.

New to our offerings:

- ◆ Advent Movie Night
- ◆ Eucharistic Cenacle, VIVET Young Adult Adoration, Nazareth Discernment Group, FIAT Discernment Retreat — All provided by the **Sisters of the Pierced Hearts of Jesus and Mary**
- ◆ Retreat for the Elect
- ◆ “Fill Your” Monthly Event
- ◆ Retreat for Bereavement Ministers in collaboration with **Queen of Angels Cemetery**

1,200+
number of people who
participated in our
Christmas Family Night
event!



We celebrated
the **30th**
Anniversary of
the **Mary, Mother
of God Chapel!**

61
Number of
programs offered by
San Pedro

305
Number of groups that held
meetings/events at
San Pedro



We welcomed **Cecilia Ferrer**,
administrative assistant,
and **Katie Neu**, program manager,
to the team!



The **Sisters of the Pierced Hearts of Jesus and Mary** were a welcomed addition to our campus and collaborative efforts.

■ Mission Office



489

Number of students enrolled in our elementary and high schools. They are taught by **42** teachers.

1,854

Number of pairs of shoes donated to the people of the Dominican Republic.

2,422

Jars of peanut butter donated to the villages provided needed nutrition to the children of our schools

10,875

Number of school supply items delivered to the children of the Diocese of San Juan de la Manguana. Our Catholic School students donated a majority of these supplies.



The Multipurpose Sport Arena was built at San Maximilian Colby School. The multipurpose pavilion, funded by a collaboration between the Japanese government and the Ruckstuhl Foundation, provides an area for: athletics (basketball, tennis, volleyball, track events, etc.); special events for families and friends to attend (presentations, academic events, graduations, etc.); and a gathering place for other events. Prior to this, there was no other place for people to gather except on the mountain road.



The Cueva Chapel was built.

Construction was completed and 36 families in the remote village of La Cueva joyfully received keys to their new homes. The residents celebrated by decorating the dirt road. running through the center of the small village, playing music, and dancing.





DIocese OF ORLANDO SECRETARIAT FOR EDUCATION

Office of Catholic Schools ♦ Mission Office ♦ San Pedro Spiritual Development Center

50 E. Robinson St., Orlando, FL 32801

(407) 246-4900 ♦ orlandodiocese.org/schools