



DIOCESE OF METUCHEN

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

January 12, 2010

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Catholic schools are a great blessing to the Diocese of Metuchen because they provide the good ground for nurturing the seeds of faith and knowledge in the hearts and minds of all our students, who are the future of our church. Let me take this opportunity to thank you for choosing to give your child(ren) the gift of a Catholic education, a gift that I know is given at great sacrifice for many families. Please be assured that we are making every effort to ensure that our Catholic schools remain "available, affordable and accessible" to students for a long time to come.

Once again for the school year 2010/2011, we are blessed to make our diocesan **Tuition Assistance Program** available to help keep Catholic education more affordable for those families who may need some financial aid to send their children to Catholic school. Tuition assistance grants are made possible through *The Foundation for Catholic Education*, an endowment fund that provides financial support, primarily tuition assistance, to aid low and moderate income parents who have children in our elementary and high schools. For the 2009/2010 school year, over \$669,000 in tuition grants were distributed to 692 students in our school community. However, as costs and tuitions rise, the need of our families continues to grow each year.

Tuition assistance is available for those families with children in grades K-12 who attend any of our 34 parochial elementary schools, our 2 diocesan high schools (Bishop Ahr and Cardinal McCarrick) or our parochial high school (Immaculata). Eligible families must be registered in one of the parishes within the Diocese of Metuchen. New students attending the 2 private high schools in our diocese (St. Joseph and Mount Saint Mary Academy) will need to seek assistance directly from those schools.

I wanted to ensure that you are aware of this program so that you can have all the tools at your disposal to help you in choosing or continuing to choose Catholic education for your child(ren). This application process is handled through Private School Aid Service (PSAS) for the diocese. Grant application forms will be available for Catholic Schools Week beginning January 31, and can be obtained directly from your school. Please contact your Principal or school business office to obtain forms.

Grant applications must be completed and signed by the parents or guardians requesting tuition assistance. In addition, parents or guardians **must** obtain the signature of the Pastor of the parish in which you are registered on the application before submitting to PSAS. Without the signature, application processing cannot be completed. **THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS TO PSAS IS MARCH 31, 2010.** Please note that applications received after the deadline will be returned to the family unprocessed and will not be considered for a grant award.

Thank you for the blessing you are to our children and our church and for your continued commitment to Catholic education.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Rev. Msgr. Michael J. Corona, PA, KCHS
Executive Director, Department of Education