

Dear Parishioners of Saint Anne and Saint Jude,

This week we celebrate Catholic Schools Week. With over a hundred years of history and tradition, our Catholic schools, Saint Anne and Saint Jude and Saint Francis Xavier High School carry the legacy of inspiring, changing, and forming the lives of our students. They are educated and encouraged to become successful citizens and future leaders of our society and our Church.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone of the importance of Catholic Education especially in the city of Sumter. It is a vital part of our growth as a community that seeks unity in the common ground. Our schools have faced so many trials and challenges over the years but continue to thrive because they have a pertinent mission: to make relevant the reign of Christ in the lives of our Children.

In the Gospel of St. Mark 19:14, we are reminded through the words of Jesus, *“Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”* God has entrusted his Children to our care, to educate in the faith and help them grow maturely to respond to the call of holiness, to pursue happiness and become productive members of our faith community and society. We carry that responsibility in cooperating with God’s desire to welcome children into his Kingdom. In our parish community, we can carry that responsibility as part of our cooperation in God’s perfect plan of salvation.

It is my desire to share with you the good things that are happening in our schools and the need for continued support of Catholic Education in Sumter. I would like to mention a few of the many reasons why you should consider Catholic Education for your children. Our schools encourage students to develop Christian virtues and beliefs. Our faculty and staff empower students in their learning capacity to promote active citizenship and leadership. Our schools are family centered environments focused on inspiring excellence in God’s Children. The upper grade students offer positive role models for those younger ones. In our effort to build the kingdom of God in our midst, it is also our mission to bring our students to Jesus Christ so that they may come to know, love and serve him.

I humbly ask you my dear parishioners to support our Catholic schools financially or by positively promoting them to achieve their sustainable growth. Let us continue to be a community that cares for the education of our children to the faith. I hope and pray that with common effort, we can continue the good things that our Catholic Schools are doing for our children and for our community. God has a special love for children. That is the kind of love we try to emulate and instill in the hearts of our students.

May God continue to bless and keep you. Saint Anne, Saint Jude, Saint Francis Xavier, pray for us!

Fr. Giovannie Nunez, CRM

