



DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH  
THE BISHOP'S OFFICE



**Bishop Michael Olson's Statement to the Faithful of the Diocese of Fort Worth  
Celebrating New Parental Educational Authority and a Strategic Realignment  
of Fort Worth Diocese Schools' Leadership**

June 12, 2025

Dear Friends in Christ,

On January 25, 2022, the Congregation for Catholic Education issued the Instruction, *The Identity of the Catholic School for a Culture of Dialogue*. The Congregation, reflecting on the teaching of Vatican II, writes, “Since education is a right for everyone, the Council called for the *responsibility of all*. The responsibility of *parents* and their priority right in educational choices rank first. School choice must be made freely and according to conscience; hence the duty of civil authorities to make different options available in compliance with the law. The *State* is responsible for supporting families in their right to choose a school and an educational project.”

It is in alignment with this teaching that the Diocese of Fort Worth celebrates a transformative moment for education in Texas with the launch of the Education Savings Account (ESA) initiative. The ESA legislation represents a generational opportunity for Texas to restore educational authority to parents, empowering them to choose the best learning environment for their children. In this renewed landscape, our Catholic schools stand ready to answer the call to guide and to assist fathers and mothers in carrying out their responsibility as the primary educators of their children.

The Diocese of Fort Worth remains committed to the mission of Catholic education of forming the whole person — mind, body, and spirit. With ESAs now on the horizon, families across our diocese can more easily access the excellence and moral foundation that define our Catholic schools.

The ESA legislation comes amidst tremendous growth occurring across North Texas. To capitalize on this historic opportunity, coupled with the rapid growth our Diocese is experiencing, we are strategically realigning our educational departments and enhancing our leadership structure to better serve the mission of the Church.

Dr. Melissa Millard, our current Superintendent of Catholic Schools, will transition to the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth Advancement Foundation to serve as its Senior Vice President for Advancement. In her new role, Dr. Millard will strengthen and develop Catholic education across the Diocese by initiating, standardizing, and leading an effort to codify Institutional Advancement across all our Catholic schools. Her direct responsibilities will include oversight of all Catholic school development, messaging and promotion, and key initiatives in alumni relations and outreach. Dr. Millard will also serve as Executive Director of the Diocesan Capital Campaign for Catholic Education, Expansion, and Faith Formation, ensuring the Diocese is well-positioned to meet the educational needs of future generations.

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800 West Loop 820 South • Fort Worth, TX 76108 • (817) 560-3300 • Fax (817) 244-8839 • [fwdioc.org](http://fwdioc.org)  
[officeofthebishop@fwdioc.org](mailto:officeofthebishop@fwdioc.org)



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Mr. Frank Perez, our current Associate Superintendent of Catholic Schools, will succeed Dr. Millard as our Superintendent of Catholic Schools. Mr. Perez brings a wealth of experience from across the educational spectrum, having taught grades Pre-K through 8 and having served as both a middle school and high school administrator. His leadership and dedication to Catholic formation and academic excellence make him uniquely suited to guide diocesan schools into this exciting new chapter.

We are further augmenting our diocesan Catholic Schools Office by adding Dr. Maggie Harrison and Mr. Oscar Ortiz, the current administrators of Cassata Catholic High School and Nolan Catholic High School, respectively. Their experience and strengths will now be utilized system-wide to improve all our seventeen Catholic schools.

Dr. Maggie Harrison will serve as our Assistant Superintendent of Catholic Schools. In her new role, Dr. Harrison will focus on improving and strengthening the Diocese's schools, overseeing accreditation compliance for all diocesan Catholic schools, directing professional development, and increasing student services.

Mr. Oscar Ortiz will serve as our Executive Director of Strategic Outreach and Education Access. Central to his new role will be developing and implementing *CAMINO*, the Diocese's new initiative to expand access to Catholic education through the ESA program across the Diocese. Mr. Ortiz will accomplish this by building outreach systems, training leaders, and supporting communication efforts across our communities for greater enrollment in our Catholic schools.

Mr. Ignacio Aguilera will join the Diocese in the position of Associate Superintendent. Mr. Aguilera joins us after many years of experience in teaching and administration in Catholic education in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. His dedication and background will assist our principals and teachers in fostering a Catholic culture within our schools and among our students and their families.

After serving as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth Advancement Foundation for the last five years, Clint Weber will transition to Nolan Catholic High School to serve as its President. Mr. Weber's executive experience and unparalleled leadership qualities will enrich Nolan Catholic's operations and enable the school to grow and flourish.

In addition to these significant personnel appointments, I am pleased to announce that Susan LoCoco will be Nolan Catholic High School's new Principal. Mrs. LoCoco has served for 23 years in our diocese as a teacher and leader at St. Andrew Catholic School and Nolan Catholic High School. She holds a BA in Economics from the University of Dallas and an MBA from the University of Dallas Graduate School of Management.

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Julianna McConegly will become Principal of Cassata Catholic High School after serving as Assistant Principal for three years. Mrs. McConegly holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science, with a minor in Emergency Management, and a Master of Arts degree in Political Science from Oklahoma State University. As a proud alumna of both St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and Nolan Catholic, Mrs. McConegly is especially honored to continue serving the Diocese of Fort Worth community, which played such a meaningful role in her own education. This year marks Mrs. McConegly's seventh year in the Diocese of Fort Worth Catholic Schools.

These changes reflect the Diocese's deep commitment to strengthening its schools; expanding access to high-quality, Christ-centered education; and to preparing students for lives of purpose, virtue, and leadership.

Let us pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance and strength as we enter with renewed vigor this exciting new era of Catholic education and faith formation within the Diocese of Fort Worth. Please be assured of my prayers as I seek the same from you on my behalf. I remain,

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

*+ Michael F. Olson*

Most Reverend Michael F. Olson, STD, MA  
Bishop of Fort Worth

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