



DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH  
THE BISHOP'S OFFICE



August 10, 2023  
Feast of Saint Lawrence

Dear Parents,

As we begin our academic year this week, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for entrusting your children's education to the Catholic schools of the Diocese of Fort Worth. The mission of a Catholic education is to teach as Jesus Christ taught, thus the mission of Catholic education calls on everyone, pastors, principals, teachers, students, and fathers and mothers to sacrifice with love that our children might grow in wisdom and knowledge and that our families might be strengthened.

Saint John Vianney once wrote, "The eyes of the world see no further than this life, as mine see no further than this wall when the door is closed. The eyes of the Christian see deep into eternity." In our times, there are many forces in society that are trying to slam the doors of education on our children to prevent them from seeing beyond the limits of a world closed in upon itself without reference to God, closed to objective truth, closed to a respect for human nature. The mission of Catholic education in our schools is precisely to teach our children to open these doors with confidence so that they might see and cherish with grateful hearts the light of all that is true, beautiful, and good. This will empower them to recognize the face of Christ in those of their neighbors of different races, creeds, and cultures.

The first educators of your children are you, their fathers and mothers, followed closely by the other members of your families. It is so essential for your children's education and human development that you accompany them to Mass on Sundays and on Holy Days of obligation, and regularly receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. For those who are not Catholic, your children and family life will flourish by attending your own church home. Finally, it is important that you pray with your children that they might come to follow the Ten Commandments as Christ taught us by loving God and our neighbor. Without these essential components of Sunday Mass and prayer, the education and formation of your children will be without positive effect.

I am proud of the Catholic schools of our Diocese of Fort Worth. We have invested much time, talent, and financial resources to see to their development in excellence in facilities and in pedagogy so that Catholic education will thrive in the Diocese of Fort Worth long after we have moved on. Please know of my prayers for you during these challenging times as I ask for your prayers for me as your bishop. I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*+ Michael F. Olson*

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