



## ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE

DEPARTMENT OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION MINISTRIES  
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

May 20, 2010

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

May the Peace of Christ be with you!

Within the next couple of weeks my tenure as Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Archdiocese of Baltimore will come to an end. It has been two decades since I arrived in Baltimore to take on this awesome position. It was an overwhelming thought to be leading the schools in the Premier See, where the roots of Catholic education were so deeply planted by St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and Mother Mary Lange. This is the diocese where the parochial school had its origins, and where the concept of parish schools spread throughout the country. This is where the Baltimore Catechism was authored and became the primer in teaching the basic tenets of our Catholic faith. It is an archdiocese rich in history. For me to be part of that tradition has been an honor.

As I take my leave and move on, I want to thank you for the privilege of entrusting your child(ren) to my care. Although I did not have the day to day contact with students, I was always reminded of my responsibility to them when I did my visits to our schools. It was the children who kept things in perspective and it was they, through their lenses, that kept me focused and even humble. I remember being introduced to one 1<sup>st</sup> grade class as the Superintendent of Schools, and a little girl raised her hand and asked a question, "Do you work for Jesus?" After a reflective moment, I said, "Yes I do, yes I do." That simple question reminded me what it is that every Catholic educator does; namely, that we work in an apostolate given and modeled to us by the Master Teacher.

Finally, I applaud and admire you for your continued commitment to Catholic education. You are a great testimony in giving witness to the value and richness of a Catholic education. I realize the myriad sacrifices that you have to make, but let me reassure you that it is worth it. You have made a conscious investment in your child's total development. It is an education based on Gospel values intertwined with the pursuit of academic excellence, and such an investment will pay you back in dividends.

Pray for me as I will for you. Peace and all good things!

Sincerely yours

Dr. Ronald J. Valenti  
Superintendent of Catholic Schools