

Ministry of Catholic School Education

Leader: American Catholic school education arose in the nineteenth century because of dissatisfaction Catholics had with the way religion was presented in the common school. Catholic school education seeks to lead people and society to accept the Gospel message as presented by the Catholic Church.

Let us recall that we are in God's holy presence.

Please pause after each reading to reflect on the message.

Reader 1: We are reminded that ...
"The school cultivates the intellect, ripens the capacity for right judgment, provides an introduction to the cultural heritage, promotes a sense of values, and readiness for professional life."
Declaration on Education, 1965

Reader 2: We are reminded that ...
"The aim of education for justice consists in an attempt to awaken consciences to a knowledge of the concrete situation and in a call to secure a total improvement."
Justice in the World, 1971

Reader 3: We are reminded that ...
"Community is at the heart of Christian education not simply as a concept to be taught but as a reality to be lived."
To Teach as Jesus Did, 1972

Reader 4: We are reminded that ...
"The school is a place of integral formation. Its task is fundamentally a synthesis of culture and faith, and a synthesis of faith and life."
The Catholic School, 1977

Reader 5: We are reminded that ...
"What makes the Catholic school distinct is its religious dimension."
The Religious Dimension of Education in a Catholic School, 1988

Reader 6: We are reminded that ...
"The entire ecclesial community ... is called to value ever more deeply the importance of this task and mission, and to continue to give it full and enthusiastic support."
In Support of Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools, 1990

Reader 7: We are reminded that ...
"The work of the school is irreplaceable and the investment of human and material resources in the school becomes a prophetic choice."
Catholic Schools on the Threshold of the Third Millennium, 1997

Reader 8: We are reminded that ...
"It remains our duty to model the Person of Jesus Christ, to teach the Gospel, and to evangelize our culture. We are convinced that Catholic elementary and secondary schools play a critical role in this endeavor."
Renewing our Commitment to Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools in the Third Millennium, 2005.

Reader 9: We are reminded that ...
"Catholic schools participate in the Church's evangelizing mission of bringing the gospel to the ends of the earth. Particularly, they are places for the evangelization of the young."
The Holy See's Teaching on Catholic Schools, 2006

Reader 10: We are reminded that ...
"Education is integral to the mission of the Church to proclaim the Good News. First and foremost every Catholic educational institution is a place to encounter the living God who in Jesus Christ reveals his transforming love and truth. ... To all of you, I say: bear witness to hope."
Pope Benedict XVI, The Catholic University of America, April 17, 2008

Reflection and Sharing: What selection from these quotes speaks to your role as a potential leader of Catholic schools?

All: Teacher of all peoples, please help make Catholic schools flourish throughout this land. Guide our efforts and the efforts of all those who work in and for Catholic schools. We ask this in the name of Your Son, Jesus, our fellow teaching minister. Amen