

# Why Catholic Schools?

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS ANNUAL REPORT

2015



ARCHDIOCESE OF  
**NEW ORLEANS**

Office of Catholic Schools

## Table of Contents

A Message from Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond .....	3
A Message from Dr. Jan Daniel Lancaster.....	4
Who We Are.....	5
Our Schools.....	6
Why We Are .....	8
To Know.....	9
To Love .....	11
To Serve .....	13
Why Support Catholic Schools .....	15
The Situation.....	17
How Can You Help? .....	18



# Do You Ever Wonder Why?

There are more and more options in education. There are solid public schools, good charter schools, and an array of private non-denominational schools. So why would someone choose Catholic schools? Why do people continue to save and sacrifice to send their children to schools where the Catholic faith is the foundation of all things?

Last fall, the Office of Catholic Schools and the Office of Communications for the Archdiocese of New Orleans asked those questions. Why choose Catholic schools? The parents had profound, thought-provoking answers. They talked about Catholic schools as safe places where children are nurtured spiritually and academically. They talked about Catholic schools as more than institutions and more like families. As one mother put it, "The principal brought me soup when I was sick!" They talked about Catholic schools as centers of excellent academics. Mostly, they talked about Catholic schools as places of prayer, where children learn that God is at the center of all things.

Catholic schools are places set apart. They are worth the saving and sacrificing to ensure that our children understand that they are created in the image of God and so must go forth to serve others out of love and for love.

**Why choose Catholic schools? Simply, they are the more excellent way.**



A Message from  
**Archbishop  
Gregory M.  
Aymond**  
Archbishop of New Orleans



Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As I consider the issues facing our young people today, I give thanks for the ministry of Catholic education in the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Some may ask, "Why do we need Catholic schools?" We need Catholic schools because they provide something the world longs for – an education firmly rooted in Christ.

An education rooted in the love of Christ means that our Catholic schools cannot fail to be centers of excellence. They cannot fail because, as St. Paul tells us, "Love never fails" (1 Cor 13:8). Catholic schools teach the mind and touch the heart so that students will come to know, love, and serve the Lord and one another.

Our Catholic schools continue to provide numerous answers to the question, "Why do we need Catholic schools?" The answers are found in the lives of those who bless our world with love, all because they were educated with the heart of Christ.

Wishing you God's blessings, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Rev. Gregory M. Aymond

Dear Friends of Catholic Schools,

I am happy to provide you with our latest annual report, "Why Catholic Schools?" In attempting to answer that question, I have to look at my own family. Why did my parents choose Catholic schools for my sisters and me? Why did I choose Catholic schools for my children?

Every parent wants to provide children with an excellent education, of course. However, when choosing Catholic schools, parents are saying they want more. For my parents, they wanted their daughters to learn and live the Catholic faith. They wanted us to be nourished by the love of God and share that love with others through concrete acts of service in God's name. I wanted the same for my children. I wanted to teach them, with help from our Catholic schools, that the true meaning of "success" is how we live lives of service embedded in the Catholic faith.

In essence, I wanted my children to learn that living the Christian way of life is living the way of love. I think all parents want that for their children, and I know that there is no better place for teaching the way of love than in our Catholic schools.

Why do I choose Catholic schools? Because they are the more excellent way. They teach the mind and fill the heart with God's grace.



and Superintendent  
**Dr. Jan  
Daniel  
Lancaster**

Thank you to all who choose Catholic schools. Spread the word, share the good news, and help our Catholic schools grow stronger every day!

Yours in Christ,

Dr. Jan Daniel Lancaster





# Who We Are

*Our schools are divided into four categories, and together we are one family of Catholic schools.*

*The Archdiocese of New Orleans Catholic schools are located throughout eight civil parishes in Southern Louisiana.*



**SCHOOLS UNDER THE IMMEDIATE DIRECTION OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW ORLEANS:**

- Academy of Our Lady
- Archbishop Chapelle
- Archbishop Hannan
- Archbishop Rummel
- Archbishop Shaw
- Holy Rosary Academy and High School
- Pope John Paul II
- St. Charles Catholic
- St. Michael Special School
- St. Scholastica Academy

**PARISH SCHOOLS:**

- Annunciation
- Ascension of Our Lord
- Christ the King
- Holy Name of Jesus
- Immaculate Conception
- Mary, Queen of Peace
- Our Lady of Divine Providence
- Our Lady of Lourdes
- Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Belle Chasse
- Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Kenner
- Our Lady of Prompt Succor, Chalmette
- Our Lady of Prompt Succor, Westwego
- Our Lady of the Lake

- Resurrection of Our Lord
- Sacred Heart of Jesus
- St. Alphonsus
- St. Andrew the Apostle
- St. Angela Merici
- St. Ann
- St. Anthony of Padua
- St. Anthony
- St. Benilde
- St. Catherine of Siena
- St. Charles Borromeo
- St. Christopher
- St. Clement of Rome
- St. Cletus
- St. Dominic
- St. Edward the Confessor
- St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
- St. Francis Xavier
- St. Joan of Arc, LaPlace
- St. Joan of Arc, New Orleans
- St. Leo the Great
- St. Louis King of France
- St. Margaret Mary
- St. Mary Magdalen
- St. Matthew the Apostle
- St. Peter Claver
- St. Peter, Covington
- St. Peter, Reserve
- St. Philip Neri
- St. Pius X

- St. Rita, Harahan
- St. Rita, New Orleans
- St. Rosalie
- St. Stephen
- Visitation of Our Lady

**RELIGIOUS ORDER SCHOOLS:**

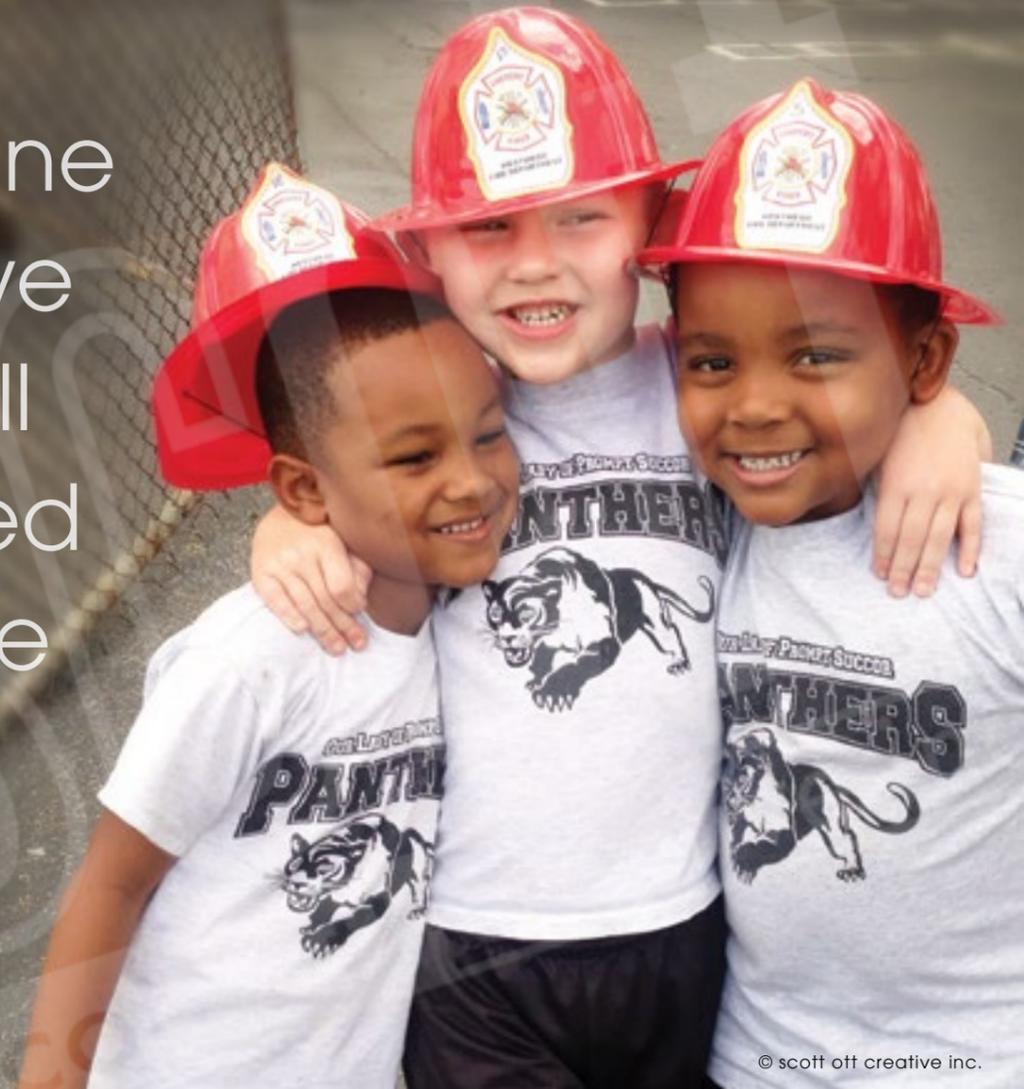
- Academy of the Sacred Heart
- Brother Martin
- Cabrini
- Christian Brothers School
- De La Salle
- Holy Cross
- Jesuit
- Mount Carmel Academy
- St. Augustine
- St. Mary's Academy
- St. Mary's Dominican
- St. Paul's School
- Ursuline Academy

**SPONSORED SCHOOLS:**

- Good Shepherd Nativity
- St. Benedict the Moor
- St. Katharine Drexel Preparatory
- Stuart Hall School for Boys

For in one Spirit, we were all baptized into one body"

(1 Cor 12:13)





# Why We Are

## Why do we need Catholic schools?

The Catholic school system in the United States was born to offer a haven for Catholic families to live and learn their faith. Our schools flourished as Catholic immigrants flooded into the country.

Over the years, Catholic schools have faced challenges with shifting populations, increasing costs, charter schools, and a scarcity of religious who once formed the backbone of our schools. Still, we need Catholic schools – now more than ever. Our Catholic schools provide what no other school system does – an excellent academic education rooted in the love of Jesus.

The Archdiocese of New Orleans is working hard to make Catholic schools more available to Catholic families. Because when someone asks, “Why Catholic Schools?” Because Catholic schools teach Catholic values.

**Because Catholic schools teach children to know, love, and serve the Lord.**



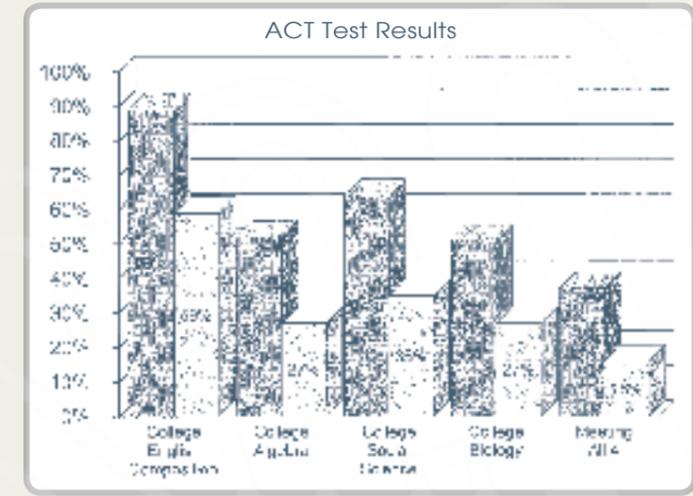
# To Know

To know the Lord means more than knowing scripture and catechism. To know the Lord fully means to know Him through science, math, literature, and all of the subjects crucial to a well-rounded education.

Catholic Schools provide an excellent education. According to the National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools, each Catholic school "requires excellence in academic and intellectual formation in all subjects including religious education."

Why Catholic schools? Because they help form individuals who come to know God in all things and through all things.

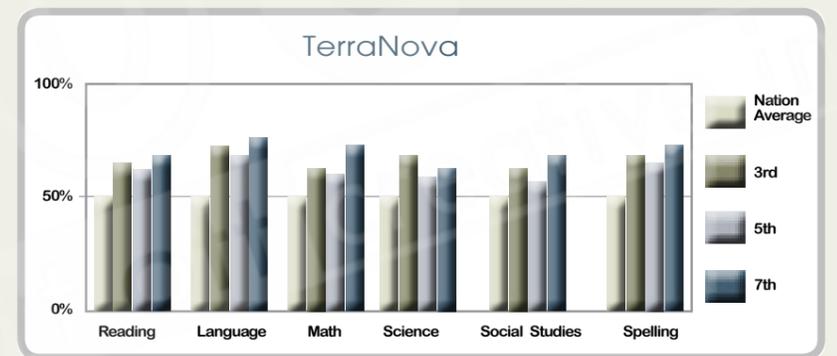
Why Catholic schools? Because they succeed. Because our students score higher on the ACT and because our students are more likely to go on to college. Look at the numbers:



American College Testing (ACT) results confirm college readiness for high school students in the Archdiocese of New Orleans with scores above the state average.\*

Archdiocese of New Orleans  
State of Louisiana

TerraNova test scores for students in grades 3-7 in the Archdiocese of New Orleans indicate above-average performance in core subject areas.\*



\*Data from 2013-2014. 2014-2015 results not available at time of printing.



## College Attendance Comparisons

*The percentage of high school graduates who attend 4-year colleges:*

College Attendance Percentage*	Type of School
85.7%	Catholic
62.1%	Other Religious
56.1%	Non-Sectarian
39.5%	Public

\*Data are not available for those attending community colleges, technical schools or enlistment in the military.  
Sources: Broughman, S.P. and Swaim, N.L.(2013), Snyder, T.D., and Dillow, S.A. (2014)  
Taken from The Annual Statistical Report on Schools, Enrollment and Staffing, National Educational Association

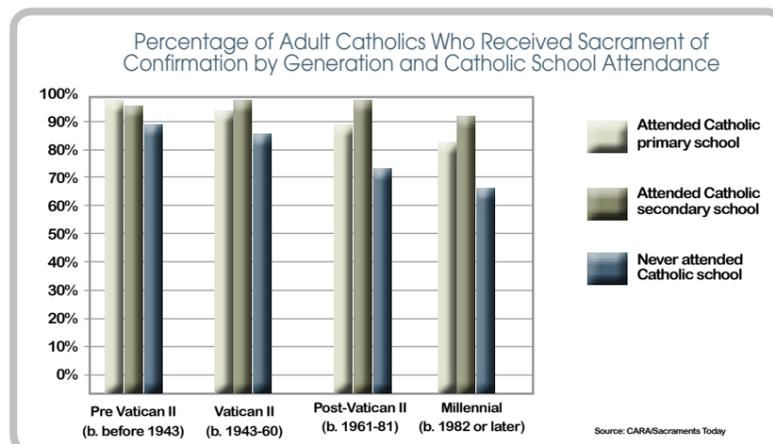


# To Love

One of the strongest effects of Catholic schooling is on the Sacrament of Confirmation. The number of Confirmations celebrated in the United States has been in decline since 2009. Part of this decline is likely linked to changes in Catholic schooling. As shown below, the likelihood that one will be confirmed is much higher among those who attended Catholic schools. Only two-thirds of self-identified Catholics who never attend a Catholic school are confirmed compared to 82% of those who attend a Catholic school and 91% of those who attend a Catholic high school.

Our Catholic schools are centers of love. Our Catholic schools preach and teach the Gospel command to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Why Catholic schools?  
 Because they form disciples.  
 Because they form young Catholics who grow into older Catholics who continue to love and serve the Lord. Just look at the numbers:





# To Serve

Our Catholic schools are schools of service. Love is never to be turned inward, but to flow outward – to go to the fringes, as Pope Francis tells us, and transform the world with the Joy of the Gospel.

## Why Catholic schools?

Because they send students forth to build up the kingdom of God. Because they exist not for themselves but for the world.

Why Catholic schools? Because they succeed. They succeed in carrying forth the command of Jesus to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Senior Service Hours:

Total:

30,000 Hours

# Why I Support Catholic Schools

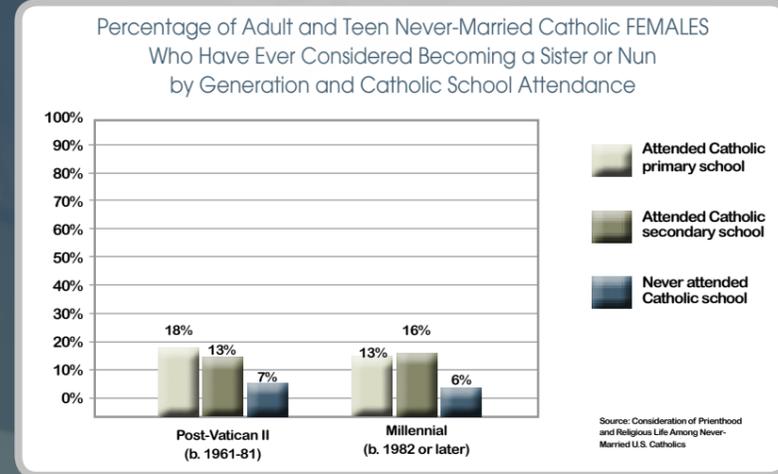
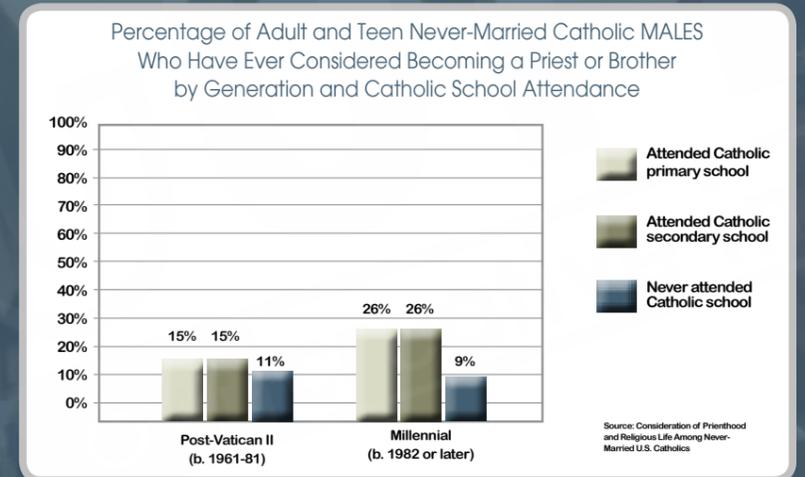
*“I want my children to be in a place where they can pray and learn about God’s love for them.”*

*“It would break my heart not to be able to send my child to Catholic school. My husband is out of work, and I am trying to make ends meet. Please help me any way you can.”*

*“We need to make Catholic education open to all – poor and rich alike.”*

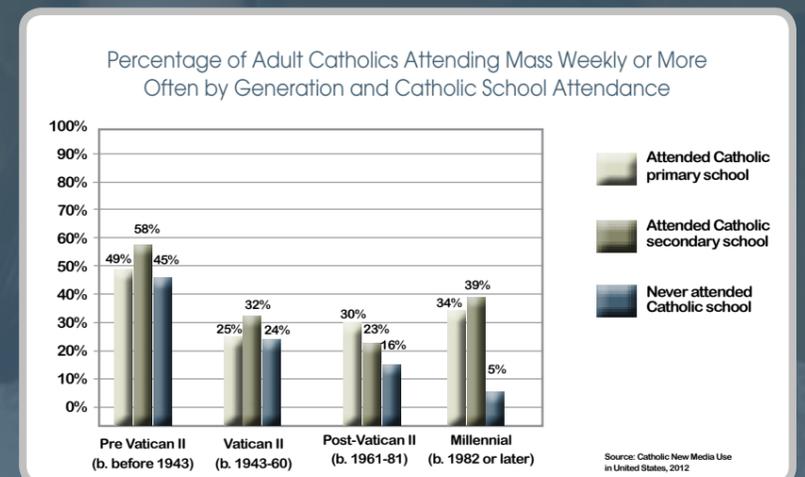


Why Support ...



Catholic Schools?

Because They Work!



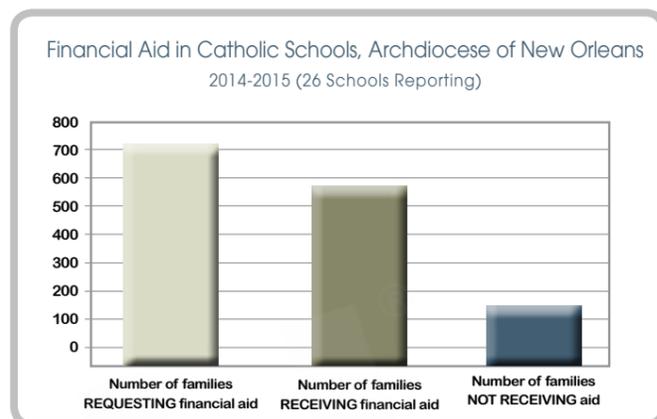
## THE SITUATION:

In January 2015, the Archdiocese of New Orleans held the first-ever second collection for Catholic schools. That collection, combined with generous donations from hundreds of Catholics across the archdiocese, helped create the Champions of Catholic Education fund.

In its first year, the fund disbursed almost \$200,000 to more than 150 families. This was a great start! At the same time, we need more support to help more families reap the benefits of Catholic education.

## WHY DO WE NEED CHAMPIONS?

We need a tuition assistance fund because Catholic schools lack the resources to provide enough financial aid for those who need it:



Potential gap in financial aid per year:  
\$1.5 million

There are many parents who want to send their children to Catholic schools but find they cannot afford the cost. Who are these parents? They are:

- Teachers in our Catholic schools who cannot afford to send their own children to our schools
- Parents who qualify for tuition tax rebate programs but cannot afford the gap in tuition costs
- Middle-class Catholic parents who cannot afford multiple Catholic school tuitions. Even families with a good income – say \$100,000 – would have difficulty affording multiple Catholic school tuitions
- Parents of any faith who want their children to experience the values and virtues of our Catholic schools

## How Can You Help?

We cannot make Catholic schools “more affordable” – not if we want to pay our teachers a just wage and keep our facilities up to date. However, we can make Catholic schools more “available” to those who truly want to be a part of our family of Catholic schools. We can do this by inviting all members of the community to be Champions of Catholic Education by making a monetary donation that will be used to provide children with a chance to attend Catholic schools.

So join the team. Be a champion. Whether you have ever attended a Catholic school, whether you have children or grandchildren in Catholic schools, whether you are Catholic or not - consider supporting an education steeped in virtue and value. Your donation will make God’s world a better place.

Be a champion. It’s not a charity. It’s a chance to change a life. It’s a chance to change the world, one child at a time.

Donations can be made online at [donate.arch-no.org/arch-no](http://donate.arch-no.org/arch-no)  
Select Catholic Schools tuition assistance fund.

Donations can also be mailed to:  
Office of Catholic Schools  
7887 Walmsley Ave.  
New Orleans, LA 70125





ARCHDIOCESE OF  
**NEW ORLEANS**

Office of Catholic Schools

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