

The Mission of Catholic Education

The Mission of Catholic Schools in the Catholic Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph rests on the importance of presenting and witnessing the mission of Jesus Christ to all students in preparation for this life and the next.

St. Peter reminds us so aptly to:

Always be ready to make a defense to anyone who calls you to account for the hope that is in you, yet do it with gentleness and reverence and keep your conscience clear so that when you are abused those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.” (1 Pt 3:15-17)

Following this Christocentric foundation, all Catholic Educators realize the importance of being an active Christian witness to students. This exposition of the faith is resounded by Pope Paul VI where in address to Catholic Educators reminds them:

“Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses.”¹

Parents rely on Catholic Educators to be an extension of their primary role outside of the Catholic School environment. The Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph is a depository of grace where any child that attends a Catholic School has as its primary focus, the soul of the child. The Special character of the Catholic School, the underlying reason for it, is precisely the quality of the religious instruction integrated in to the education of pupils. **(Catechesis In Our Time, 69)**

The Specific Character of a Catholic School is to reveal that:

- ✚ Christ is the foundation of the whole educational enterprise in a Catholic School.
- ✚ His revelation gives new meaning to life and helps man to direct his thought, action and will according to the Gospel, making the beatitudes his norm of life.
- ✚ All members of a Catholic school community are called to share in this Christian vision which in turn makes the school Catholic. **(The Catholic School, 34)**

The Specific Commitment of a Catholic School is:

- ✚ Committed to the development of the whole man.
- ✚ Expose the core of Man is Jesus Christ.
- ✚ To cultivate human values in accordance with the particular mission of the Church centered on Jesus Christ. **(The Catholic School, 34)**

Conclusion

The aim of Catholic Schools is, to, effectively teach the Deposit of Faith i.e. the teachings handed down by Christ to us in order to develop an initial faith rooted in Him. Without this substantive component, our Catholic Schools would not effectively engage the world through Catholic Lens. Reason, Religion, and Kindness will serve as our aim for all of our students.

¹ Pope Paul VI, Evangelization in the Modern World, 41