

April 2018

Dear Catholic School Supporter,

The Catholic Church in the Upper Peninsula has an awesome mission to witness to and proclaim the Good News of Jesus for all people! Our nine Catholic schools are an effective tool for the parishes to evangelize families. Securing the long term financial stability of our Catholic schools is vitally important.

It is with deep gratitude for your past support of the church's mission for Catholic education that you are being invited to witness to the Good News of Catholic schools by investing in the education of our Catholic school students. The Catholic School Endowment Challenge offers you an extraordinary, value-added opportunity to make a permanent, secure endowment gift.

This challenge requires each of the nine schools to raise new gifts for an endowment dedicated to their local Catholic school in order to receive \$100,000 from the Diocese of Marquette. All endowments will be held in the Upper Peninsula Catholic Foundation and have a broad purpose that supports the local school, forever. Schools have several options for establishing their endowment and setting fundraising goals. Diocesan staff will provide campaign assistance, customizable campaign resource materials, and hands-on coaching to those who accept the challenge of building their school's endowment fund.

You might wonder how the Diocese of Marquette can afford this major gift to schools, or why we don't simply transfer the funds to set up the endowments. First, the diocese has been gifting annual amounts to the schools for several years now from unrestricted accounts temporarily earmarked for the schools. The challenge gift comes from those unrestricted accounts. The new endowments serve to permanently restrict the funds for Catholic schools. Second, achieving financial stability is not a "one and done" deal. It will take ongoing stewardship and development. Each school's endowment provides a growing, steady base that it can count on, even in difficult financial times. The challenge incentivizes major gifts for endowment growth.

For those who may not identify with a particular local school, but wish to support Catholic education in the diocese, a Catholic School Endowment Fund has been set up that will provide annual grants in equal portions to each school. While gifts to this fund do not count toward individual school challenge goals, they do help to build up endowment for the long-term support of all Catholic schools in the Diocese of Marquette.

We ask you to prayerfully consider your support. Ask for the guidance of the Holy Spirit to discover how God is calling to you to respond to this challenge initiative.

God bless you for your stewardship of his Church!

Sincerely,



Most Reverend John F. Doerfler, STD, JCL
Bishop of Marquette



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