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Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

With heartfelt gratitude and renewed promise, I am pleased to share with you ***Answering the Call: Imagine. Evangelize. Transform.***, a three-year comprehensive strategic initiative for the Diocese of Albany Catholic Schools. ***Answering the Call*** identifies our new strategic priorities to help shape the future of Catholic schooling in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany.

Under the leadership of Very Rev. Robert Longobucco, Vicar for Catholic Faith Formation and Education, a dedicated, ***imaginative*** and skilled committee was formed to address the future needs and direction of our schools. The committee members used their visionary and critical thinking skills to research and present a plan that aims to improve upon our strengths that were identified during our diocesan-wide AdvancED accreditation process, while also addressing areas in need of keener focus and a bolder approach to keep our mission of ***evangelizing*** alive and our Catholic schools thriving.

I invite you to read [Answering the Call](#) and ask you to keep the success of our strategic planning in your prayers. I am grateful to Fr. Longobucco, the Strategic Planning Committee, Giovanni Virgiglio, Superintendent of Schools, the Diocesan School Board, and the Catholic School Office for their stewardship, collaboration and commitment of time.

Formal Catholic schooling was unquestionably a key factor in my own Catholic faith formation and the development of my priestly vocation. It is critically important that all members of our Catholic school community fully engage and embrace the strategic priorities outlined in in this document. The Diocese of Albany Catholic Schools are an important component to our mission of forming young people in the faith and spreading the good news of Jesus Christ. It is our hope that [Answering the Call](#) will strengthen and sustain Catholic schools in our diocese for years to come.

Transformation can happen when we are all on this journey together.

Your servant in Christ Jesus,



Most Reverend Edward B. Scharfenberger
Bishop of Albany

Click [HERE](#) following link to see the full
[Answering the Call: Imagine. Evangelize. Transform](#)