



40 North Main Avenue  
Albany, New York 12203  
Phone: 518-453-6602  
Fax: 518-453-6667

August 28, 2025

Dear Diocese of Albany Catholic Schools Community Members:

The members of our Catholic School Office were shocked and saddened yesterday to hear the news of the tragic school shooting at Annunciation Catholic School in Minneapolis. We ask you to join us in praying for their community, entrusting the victims and their loved ones to God's mercy and care.

In moments like this, we are reminded of both the fragility of life and the sacred responsibility we share to protect the children entrusted to our care. Please be assured that the safety of your children remains our highest priority in the Catholic schools of the Diocese of Albany.

The Catholic School Office is reviewing our schools' safety policies, training, and emergency drills with our principals as we prepare to open school next week. This is not necessarily in reaction to the shooting, but part of our normal procedures when we open school each year. With school opening next week, we have asked principals to review and practice the procedures that would be used in an actual emergency with our students and staff members. While we pray we never face such a tragedy in our own diocese, we remain committed to vigilance, preparation, and ongoing collaboration with law enforcement.

We also recognize that news of such violence may cause anxiety and fear for our children, parents, and staff members. Our principals, teachers, and school staff are attentive to these needs and stand ready to support students with compassion and understanding.

As a Catholic community, let us unite in prayer for peace, healing, and an end to violence. Thank you for your trust, support, and partnership in our Catholic schools.

Yours in Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher Bott".

Dr. Christopher Bott  
Superintendent of Schools