



Annual Report / 2019

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A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



I am pleased to present our 2019 Annual Report for the Diocese of Albany Catholic Schools.

Higher Powered Learning is at the very core of our accredited diocesan schools, where our educators challenge, transform and spiritually guide students to be their very best selves. Families place their trust in us knowing that their children are learning and growing in a safe, nurturing, faith-filled environment.

With a 100% graduation rate at our high schools and over \$20 million in scholarships awarded to the Class of 2019, we take great pride in knowing that these young men and women are using their talents in a myriad of ways: to further their studies, enhance our communities and better our world, as Jesus has taught us.

We are grateful to our many companions on this journey. Thank you to Bishop Scharfenberger, our Diocesan School Board, and the Catholic School Office. Your fervent passion for Catholic education keeps us strong and ever mindful of our important ministry.

Thank you also to our many benefactors, partners, local school boards, community leaders, pastors, volunteers and, of course, our dedicated principals, teachers and staff, all who support the essential work that we do.

On behalf of the thousands of children and young adults in our 14-county diocese, we encourage you to take a look at our diocesan schools. With financial aid and scholarships available, you will find that our schools are surprisingly affordable and academically competitive. A visit to our website, HigherPoweredLearning.org, will bring you to a listing of our schools and what makes each one of them unique and special. Personal tours are available.

We ask for your prayers as we forge ahead filled with hope, optimism and dynamic Higher Powered Learning!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Giovanni Virgilio, Jr." in a cursive script.

Giovanni Virgilio, Jr.
Superintendent of Schools
[Twitter@RCDASupt](https://twitter.com/RCDASupt)

MISSION STATEMENT FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Inspired by Christ the Teacher, the schools of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany provide a transformative learning experience in an evangelizing community.

MISSION STATEMENT FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOL OFFICE

As disciples of Jesus Christ, Lord and Teacher, we at the Catholic School Office provide leadership and guidance, give direction and assistance, and offer support and advice to all members of our diocesan school communities to ensure a future, faithful Church.

OUR VISION FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

We envision school communities imbued with Catholic values that inspire personal growth and social justice, recognize and nurture the spirituality of each individual, and provide a safe and loving environment.



Cognia

Cognia accreditation standards are a powerful tool for driving institutional change through improvement planning and implementation of rigorous research and best practices. Cognia believes that high quality learning can transform lives, communities and the world.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS



ONGOING EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS IN OUR SCHOOLS THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

The Office of Educational Technology has been working diligently with the schools to launch an all-online registration platform to allow potential applicants as well as returning students to register online. We are streamlining the process of registration, enhancing efficiency within our schools and going green with paperless registration!



TOOLKITS AND LITTLE BITS “BUILD” BETTER MINDS

The Catholic School Office was awarded a grant to purchase STEM Invention Toolboxes and LittleBits kits for our students. The kits from **Pearson** encourage experimentation, innovative thinking, and collaboration. With the Toolboxes, students can create an endless array of inventions using programmable electronic modules. You could say students are exploring the design process through the eyes of a technology engineer! The outcomes are often creative, interactive and very exciting to observe!



OUR COMMITMENT TO EXCEL AND EXCEED

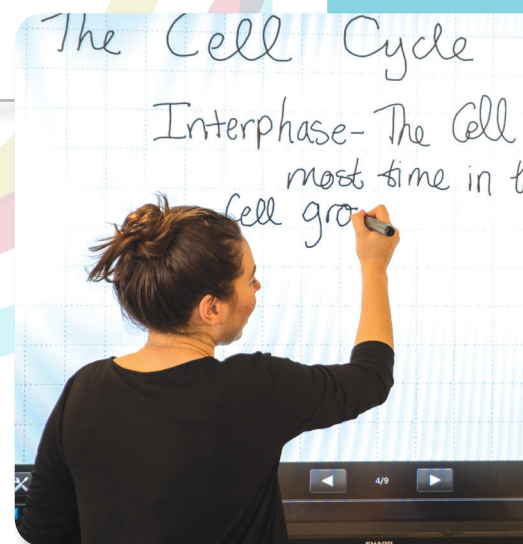
One of our proudest moments was when we achieved system-wide accreditation by AdvancED during the 2016-2017 school year, the first diocese in New York State to achieve this noteworthy designation. AdvancED and Measured Progress recently merged to form Cognia. We continually update our improvement plans, working closely with our Diocesan Accreditation Steering Committee (DASC) to ensure Cognia standards are exceeded, and our ongoing analysis of data ensures that our objectives remain relevant. Our principals are using evaluation tools like the Effective Learning Environments Observation Tool (ELEOT) to ensure that our instructional practices are effective, and also a survey instrument, Eprove, to gather data to evaluate our progress in different areas. This accreditation demonstrates our dedication to continuous improvement in all that we do!

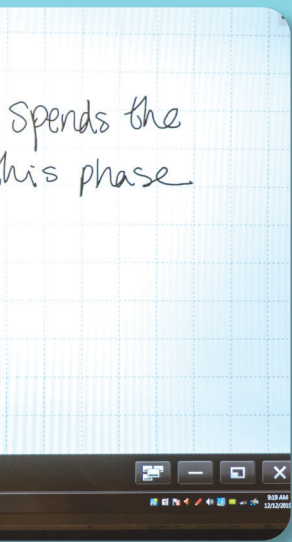


STUDENTS TAKE THE LEAD IN SOCIAL MEDIA

Many of our schools have social media clubs and it is the students themselves who are sharing all of the school's great events and accomplishments on platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Catholic Central High School has a very active club, led by teacher Meaghan Campbell. Scroll through social media and it is hard to miss a post by CCHS! Tuesday Testimonials, Throwback Thursday, Faculty Friday and timely updates on athletics, service projects, alumni events, and more! The posts are colorful, engaging and informative.

@CatholicCentralTroy #cchstroy @CCHS_Troy
www.cchstroy.org. Go to **HigherPoweredLearning.org/our-schools/** to connect socially with all of our wonderful schools!





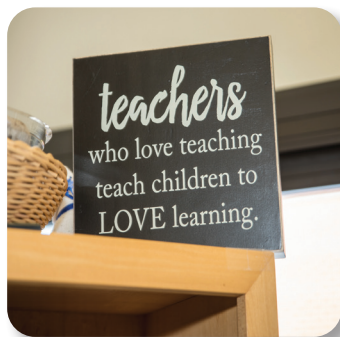
GIVING OUR YOUNG STUDENTS THE TOOLS TO SUCCEED

We are grateful to the New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) for awarding the Albany Diocesan School Board, on behalf of our diocesan schools, \$165,000 to implement addiction prevention programs in 28 classrooms across five of our elementary schools. The PAX Good Behavior Program's evidence based practice and trauma-informed approach has been shown to reduce aggression and disruptive behavior, both of which are risk factors for adolescent and adult illicit drug use. PAX training provides students with short-term and lifelong benefits, such as self regulation skills, improved classroom performance, better mental health outcomes and substance use prevention. This program is consistent with our mission of educating the whole child – mind, body and spirit.



POWERFUL PARTNERSHIPS WITH EXCEPTIONAL COLLEGES

Catholic Central High School students now have a unique opportunity to take college courses at Siena College. The Crusader to Saint Program allows students to earn up to 24 transferable credits while experiencing life on a college campus. The Early Assurance and College Planning Partnership between Notre Dame-Bishop Gibbons School and Siena College identifies students as early as freshman year for automatic acceptance into Siena based on their past and anticipated academic performance. The partnership between Bishop Maginn High School and Maria College, established in Fall 2017, enables Bishop Maginn students to take college courses without leaving their campus. All three partnerships are forward-thinking and unique, giving our high school students a competitive edge and a more discriminating focus on career readiness.

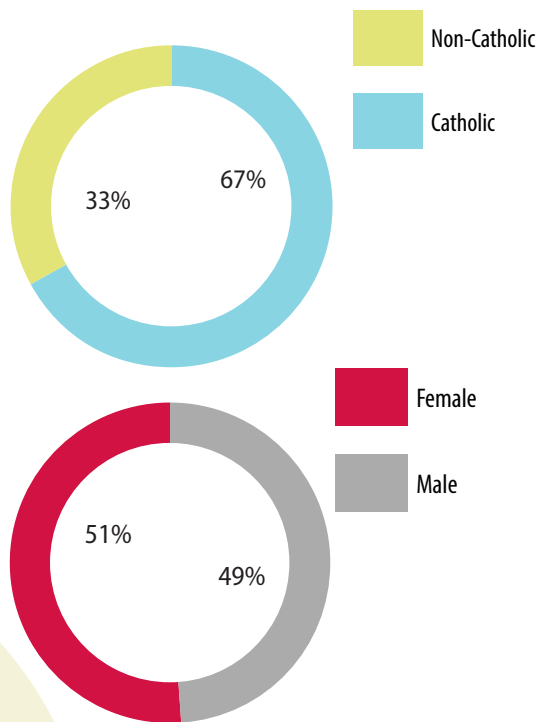


MOVING FORWARD WITH NEW YORK STATE'S NEXT GENERATION LEARNING STANDARDS

To prepare our educators for Next Generation Learning Standards, the Catholic School Office has established Professional Learning Communities, facilitated by principals, that aim to support our teachers through this early phase and beyond. Professional development activities focus on understanding the changes that have taken place and how to implement them. Teachers of every content area and grade level are meeting and discussing common challenges, as well as successes, learning from each other.



Student Demographics (Pre-K – 12)



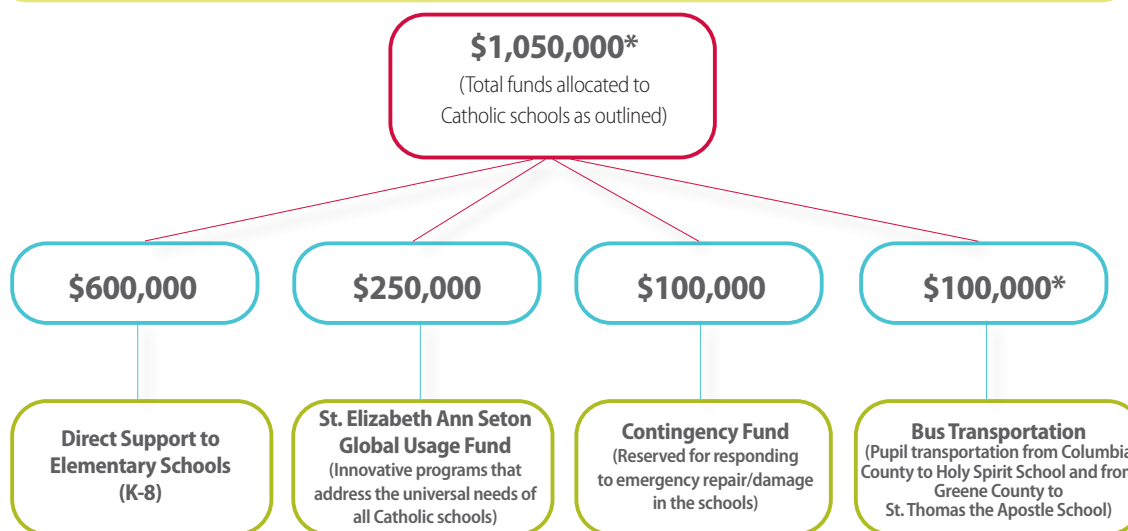
Alumni Parents Giving Back!



St. Clement's Regional Catholic School in Saratoga Springs is blessed with a very active group of alumni parents who help the school in a myriad of ways throughout the year. Collectively, they have sent 14 children to St. Clement's and, even though their children have graduated, these dedicated parents haven't stopped giving back. Mrs. Jane Kromm, principal, refers to them as her **Dream Team**. "They realize all that St. Clement's *is* and

they have a **vision** and a **dream** for what our school can be," said Mrs. Kromm. "They help with facilities, finances, marketing, enrollment, fundraising, special projects and in general are super cheerleaders for our school. They were always involved when their children attended St. Clement's School and their involvement never diminished once their children graduated." Now, **that** is enthusiasm, school spirit and generosity at its best!

Diocese of Albany Catholic Schools REGIONALIZATION FUND DISTRIBUTION



Each year, parishes are called upon to contribute to the ongoing success of our schools through the Regionalization Fund. This chart demonstrates the distribution of these funds.

* Estimated amount

BEACON OF HOPE SCHOLARSHIP FUND AND ANNUAL BALL



The **Beacon of Hope Scholarship Fund** provides tuition assistance to as many families as possible helping to keep Catholic education affordable and accessible to those who desire to send their children to our fine schools where children learn to love and love to learn in a safe, nurturing, and faith-filled environment.

During the 2018/2019 school year, we awarded a total of \$60,000 to families throughout our diocese. We expect to increase that amount in the coming years as we reimagine and refocus our fundraising efforts.

The Beacon of Hope Ball, our signature fundraising event for the scholarship program, was a sold-out success at Glen Sanders Mansion in Scotia!

One of the highlights of this annual event is recognizing exceptional individuals in our Catholic school communities who go above and beyond, sharing their gifts of time, talent and devotion to our schools. Nominations for the Community Spirit Award can come from anyone within the school community. Congratulations and our deepest gratitude to the award winners for 2018/2019.



COMMUNITY SPIRIT AWARDS

All Saints Catholic Academy	<i>Fr. Sean O'Brien</i>
Blessed Sacrament School	<i>Michaela Joyce</i>
Bishop Maginn High School	<i>Laura Amedio</i>
Catholic Central High School	<i>Patti Prusinski</i>
Holy Spirit School	<i>Chris Bucholsky</i>
Mater Christi School	<i>Carolyn Ustin</i>
Notre Dame-Bishop Gibbons	<i>Christopher and Kathleen Verbicky</i>
Sacred Heart School	<i>Meghan and Eric Manny</i>
Saratoga Central Catholic School	<i>Paul D'Ambro</i>
St. Ambrose School	<i>Cary Lombardo and Brian Ashby</i>
St. Clement's School	<i>Anne O'Toole</i>
St. Jude the Apostle School	<i>John Dalmata</i>
St. Kateri Tekakwitha School	<i>Rob Krauss</i>
St. Madeleine Sophie School	<i>Theresa Cassaro</i>
St. Mary's Academy	<i>Patricia Hayes</i>
St. Mary's Institute, Amsterdam	<i>Lauren deJong</i>
St. Mary's/St. Alphonsus	<i>Robin Della Bella and Diana Trackey</i>
St. Mary's, Ballston Spa	<i>Gary Walsh</i>
St. Mary's School, Waterford	<i>Linda Galuski</i>
St. Pius X School	<i>Mary Jo Belles</i>
St. Thomas School	<i>Paul and Colleen Harrigan</i>



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2019

2018/2019 CATHOLIC SCHOOL AWARDEES



The Bishop Howard J. Hubbard Distinguished Administrator Award

Recognizes an administrator who promotes Catholic education, seeking to foster a Christian community of love in which God's truth and life are integrated into the entire curriculum and life of a school community. The administrator has demonstrated skilled leadership in inviting the church community, teachers, and parents to share in this mission.

Terri McGraw, Consultant for Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, Catholic School Office

The Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Distinguished Teacher Award

Honors a Catholic school teacher who has promoted a school's Catholic educational vision and who has a strong awareness of a school's Catholic identity and mission. The teacher is one who has demonstrated excellence in teaching skills and has a positive effect on the moral growth of students.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AWARD

**Elizabeth "Liz" Farrington, St. Mary's Catholic School
Waterford**

SECONDARY SCHOOL AWARD

**Laura Nowosielski, All Saints Catholic Academy
Albany**

The Saint John Neumann Award for Commitment to Catholic Education

Recognizes an individual who communicates to the Catholic community, and to the broader community, that Catholic schools are the best investment and hope for the future of our church and society. The award gives public acknowledgment for service to Catholic schools demonstrated through personal characteristics of zeal, support, enthusiasm, purpose and selfless generosity in the spirit of St. John Neumann.

Rev. Dominic Ingemie, Retired Diocesan Priest

The Mother Francis Cabrini Distinguished School Support Award

Honors a member of the school community who challenges the entire community to make a stronger commitment to the school's Catholic mission through the personal giving of time and talents. This stewardship is an affirmation that the education of our youth involves the entire community.

**Mary Kay Ilowiecki, St. Mary's/St. Alphonsus School
Glens Falls**

The Vicki Bullis Distinguished School Staff Award

Honors a school staff member (secretarial, development, maintenance, etc.) who goes above and beyond the call of duty in her/his role. This dedication is demonstrated in daily activities which support the school's mission and community.

Anthony "Tony" Hayes, St. Mary's Academy, Hoosick Falls

The Community Partner Award

Recognizes members of our broader community who partner with us to demonstrate their commitment to Catholic school education.

Stages on the Sound





SERVICE AWARDS

25 Years of Service

Kristen Grasso	Holy Spirit School
Nancy Hogan	Mater Christi School
Suzanne Kienzle	All Saints Catholic Academy
Mary Susan Megna	St. Mary's Institute
Deana O'Toole	St. Clement's Regional Catholic School

30 Years of Service

Mary Jo Belles	St. Pius X School
Maria Izzo	Saratoga Central Catholic School

35 Years of Service

Karen Snyder	Sacred Heart School
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40 Years of Service

Margaret Walsh	Mater Christi School
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45 Years of Service

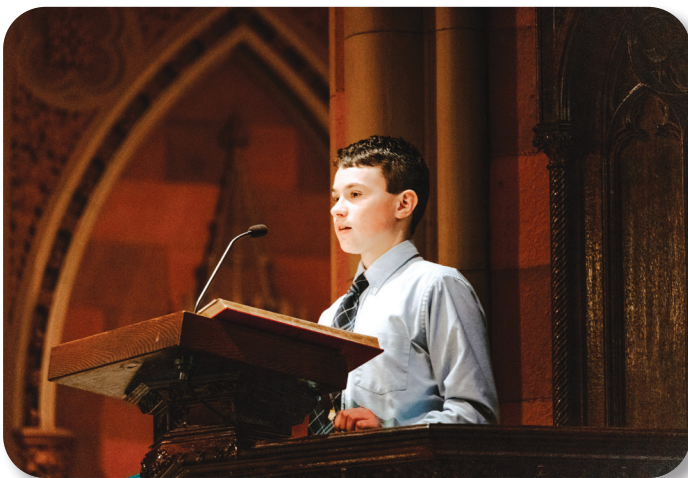
Terence Murphy	Catholic Central High School
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50 Years of Service

Paul Weidman	Holy Spirit School
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Alumna with a bright future!

Giuliana Bruno, a graduate of Mater Christi School (2012) and Catholic Central High School (2016), reflects fondly on her 13 years of Catholic education and how it inspired her and prepared her for her burgeoning journalism career. "It's the little moments that stick with me," she said. "At Mater Christi, all students had the opportunity to speak on the altar during prayer service. For most, it was terrifying, but I could hardly wait for my turn! I became very comfortable with public speaking, which is a skill I use every day at work." Giuliana credits her Global History teacher at Catholic Central High School for recognizing her passion for journalism and suggesting she start a school newspaper. As the first Editor-in-Chief, she was able to get a head start on her future career. "With small class sizes, teachers really get to know you and learn about your personal interests and goals. I am thankful for a teacher who noticed me and had faith in me." Giuliana is currently a news reporter for WTEN-TV/NEWS 10 in Albany, New York.



OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Early Childhood/Elementary

ALBANY

- All Saints Catholic Academy
- Blessed Sacrament School
- Mater Christi School

AMSTERDAM

- St. Mary's Institute

BALLSTON SPA

- St. Mary's School

DELMAR

- St. Thomas the Apostle School

EAST GREENBUSH

- Holy Spirit School

GLENS FALLS

- St. Mary's / St. Alphonsus Regional Catholic School

HERKIMER

- St. Francis De Sales Early Childhood Learning Center

HOOSICK FALLS

- St. Mary's Academy

LATHAM

- St. Ambrose School

LOUDONVILLE

- St. Pius X School

SARATOGA SPRINGS

- St. Clement's Regional Catholic School

SCHENECTADY

- St. Kateri Tekakwitha Parish School
- St. Madeleine Sophie School

TROY

- Sacred Heart School

WATERFORD

- St. Mary's School

WYNANTS KILL

- St. Jude the Apostle School

Secondary

ALBANY

- Bishop Maginn High School
Timothy Ryan, '19 Valedictorian
Ni Lar Way, '19 Salutatorian

SARATOGA SPRINGS

- Saratoga Central Catholic School
Anne Rory McKenna, '19 Valedictorian
Mary Clare Pikus, '19 Salutatorian

SCHENECTADY

- Notre Dame-Bishop Gibbons
Abigail Irene Kienzle, '19 Valedictorian
Sarah Marie Malinowski, '19 Salutatorian

TROY

- Catholic Central High School
Lauren Clare Costello, '19 Valedictorian
Ian Andrew Spoor, '19 Salutatorian

2018-2019 School Year DIOCESAN SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

President
Carolyn M. Kelly

Vice President
Michael Buckley

Antonio Civitella
Rev. Michael Flannery
Very Rev. Robert Longobucco
MaryBeth McMahon
Ryan P. Mullahy
Anne O'Toole

Josephine Pienkosz
Kathryn Szalda
Mark Treanor
Gregory Vandenburg
Jeffrey VanDenburgh

CATHOLIC SCHOOL OFFICE

Giovanni Virgiglio
Christopher Bott
Terri McGraw
Nathan VanDeusen
JoAnn Gamello
Kathleen Yanas
Daniel Jaromin
Caryn Huber
Bridget Frament
Amanda Goyer
Jacquelyn Chiera
Alicia Stenard
Rosemarie Tobin
Sal Carbone
Patricia Ricchiuti
Eileen Keegan

Superintendent of Schools
Associate Superintendent of Schools
Consultant for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment
Director of Educational Technology & Communications
Director of Financial Operations
Director of Advancement and Strategic Partnerships
Senior Accounting Associate
Accounting Associate
Personnel Services Coordinator
Grant Administrator
Director of Prevention Services
Prevention Educator
Consultant for Persons with Disabilities
Occupational Safety Coordinator
Administrative Assistant for Academic Affairs
Administrative Assistant for Business Affairs



SOCIAL MEDIA

There is so much happening in our diocesan schools! Be sure to "like" us, "share" and engage with us on social media!

Higherpoweredlearning.org
@RCDASchools #RCDASchools
#HigherPoweredLearning



OUR GRADUATES HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED AT THE FOLLOWING DISTINGUISHED COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES:

Adelphi University; Adirondack Community College; **Albany College of Pharmacy**; Arcadia University; Assumption College; Benedictine College; Binghamton University; **Boston University**; Bryant College; Bryant University; Canisius College; Catholic University of America; Cazenovia College; Chestnut Hill College; Christendom College; Clarkson University; Clemson University; College of Charleston; **College of St. Rose**; Curry College; Daemen College; Dominican College; Drexel University; Eastern Gateway Community College; Elmira College; Endicott College; Fairfield University; Florida Institute of Technology; Fordham University; Fordham University at Rose Hill; Franciscan University of Steubenville; Franklin Pierce University; Gordon College; Hartwick College; Herkimer County Community College; **Hofstra University**; Hudson Valley Community College; Iona College ; Ithaca College; Johnson & Wales University; Keuka College; LeMoyne College; Loyola University; Manhattan College; Manhattanville College; Maria College; Marist College; Marquette University; Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts; Merrimack College; Monmouth University; Moravian College; Mount St. Mary's University; Nazareth College; New England College; Niagara College; North Country Community College; Northeastern University; Norwich University; **Ozyegin University (Turkey)**; Pasco-Hernando State College; Paul Smith's College; **Pennsylvania State University**; Providence College; Quinnipiac University; Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute; **Rochester Institute of Technology**; Rollins College; Rosemont College; Rowan University; Sacred Heart University; Sage College of Albany; Saint Joseph's University; Saint Leo University; Saint Michael's University; Salve Regina University; Schenectady County Community College; Seton Hall; **Siena College**; Skidmore College; Southern New Hampshire University; Springfield College; **St. Bonaventure University**; St. John Fisher College; St. John's University; **St. Lawrence University**; St. Michael's College; St. Peter's University; Syracuse University; SUNY College at Cobleskill; SUNY College at Cortland; SUNY College at Fredonia; SUNY College at Geneseo; SUNY College at Oneonta; SUNY College at Oswego; SUNY College at Plattsburgh; The Sage Colleges; The University of Iowa; The University of Tampa; Union College; University at Albany; **University at Buffalo**; University of Bridgeport; **University of Connecticut**; University of Delaware; University of Georgia; University of Kentucky; University of Mary; University of New Haven; University of North Carolina, Wilmington; **University of Rochester**; University of Scranton; University of South Carolina; University of South Florida; University of Vermont; University of Wisconsin-Madison; Utica College; **Villanova University**; Wells College; Wentworth Institute of Technology; Western New England University; Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

2018/2019 PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

We are grateful to our partners in ministry who support the ongoing professional development needs of our teachers, administrators, and catechetical leaders.





Higher powered learningSM

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Phone: 518.453.6602

www.higherpoweredlearning.org

