



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF JACKSON

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Dear Catholic School Educators and Advisory Council Members,

I congratulate you for your commitment and dedication to the Catholic Schools and learning centers of our Diocese! With gratitude to the Diocesan Advisory Council, the Office of Catholic Schools, our administrators and all who collaborated on this project, I hereby give my affirmation to the revisions and updates contained in the *Polices and Regulations for Educational Institutions of the Catholic Diocese of Jackson*.

One of the responsibilities of the Diocesan School Advisory Council is to review our Diocesan educational policies on a regular basis and then to recommend revisions to me when they are needed. Because of the many changes in education, as well as the challenges of our modern society, it has been necessary to revise some of our policies, as well as to write a number of new policies. In order to implement these policies in a uniform way in all of the educational institutions of our Diocese, specific regulations have been developed by the Office of Catholic Schools.

“Young people of the third millennium must be a source of energy and leadership in our Church and nation”. These words are taken from a document – *Renewing Our Commitment* – recently written by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and are words that I firmly believe in terms of the future of the Church for our Diocese. As Bishop, I call upon parents, parishioners, our clergy and religious, our administrators and faculties to do everything in their power to maintain and strengthen Catholic education in our Diocese.

Myself, a product of Catholic education, I am convinced about the value and importance of our Catholic schools. They are the surest and most effective means of providing evangelization and sound Christian education for our children and young people.

As in the past, with your assistance and dedication, together we shall continue to provide and make Catholic Christian education available as our Diocese’s recognition of the Church’s responsibility to educate the children of Mississippi.

Needless to say, I wish to express my gratitude to Sister Deborah Hughes, the staff of our Department of Formational Ministries and the Diocesan School Advisory Council for their dedication to the ministry of Catholic schools in the Diocese of Jackson. For our Catholic school administrators and their staffs, we also express our gratitude for their hard work, sacrifice and continued efforts to make our Catholic schools a reality. As we begin a new year, we are indeed grateful for the success of the past, but we look forward – together – to the challenges of the future. May the work begun in and through us prosper by the grace of the Lord.

With best wishes and prayerful requests for God’s blessings on us all, I am

Sincerely in the Lord,

Joseph N. Latino
Bishop of Jackson