

The Office for Racial Justice is united in heart, spirit and prayer with all of our Catholic Schools that will be closing at the end of this school year. We hope that this prayer written by Fr. Lawrence Dowling, pastor of St. Denis Church, will be a source of comfort and hope for students, parents, teachers, administrators, pastors and parishioners.

Prayer of Thanksgiving, Sadness and Hope - Life, Death and Resurrection - for Our Catholic Schools and Catholic Education

Good and gracious God, as disciples of Your Son Jesus, we have sat at Your feet as we have grown in wisdom and knowledge of the great gift of faith and its power in our lives.

We have sat at the feet of loving parents, grandparents and guardians who taught us through prayer, word and faithful lives.

We have sat at the feet of priests and ministers who shared Your Word as they have connected its power to our daily living.

We have sat at the feet of teachers and catechists, religious and lay men and women who have instructed us and helped form us in the faith.

God of life, death and resurrection, we pray for the children, parents, teachers, administrators, parishioners and pastors of our parish schools, especially those who are enduring the pain of closing.

We know that You mourn this loss with all of us.

Let those who teach in your name know our deep gratitude for their dedicated service and material sacrifice.

Let our parents know our great appreciation for the sacrifices they have made and continue to make for their children, for their example and practice of faith that will serve their children well throughout life.

Let our children know your compassionate love and your great desire that they will continue to learn the ways of faith in new schools, in new programs.

Let all know that the entire communion of Catholics throughout the archdiocese:

- gives thanks for the wonderful years of quality education provided through these schools;
- grieves their loss because it is our collective loss;
- prays that parents will find the means necessary to continue to educate their children in the ways of faith; and,
- commit ourselves to support materially and spiritually the future of Catholic education for our children in this archdiocese.

Help all of us throughout our archdiocese hold one another in prayer, especially at this time. Help us to imagine new possibilities, new models and means to bring Your Word to our children, new ways to engage the collective imagination and resources of the Catholic community, that the legacy of our Catholic faith may be taught, embraced and live on for generations to come. Amen.

Mary, Seat of Wisdom, pray for us.

St. Albert the Great, pray for us.

St. Augustine, pray for us.

St. Monica, pray for us.

St. Dominic, pray for us.

St. Thomas Aquinas, pray for us.

St. Benedict, pray for us.

St. Katharine Drexel, pray for us.

St. Elizabeth Seton, pray for us.

St. Francis, pray for us.

St. Martin de Porres, pray for us.

Bishop William McManus, pray for us.

Bishop Reynold Hillenbrand, pray for us.

Joseph Cardinal Bernardin, pray for us.