

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord!



Diocese of Orlando Secretariat for Education  
2019-2020 Annual Report



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## [A Video Message from Bishop Noonan and Superintendent Henry Fortier](#)



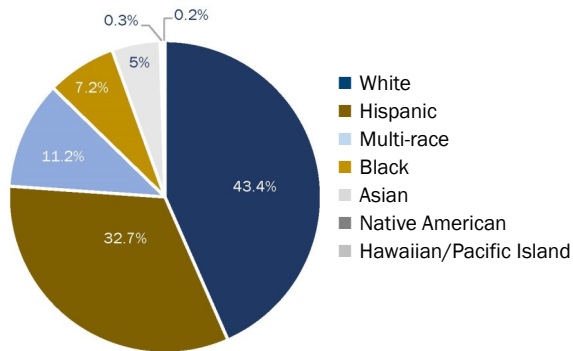
Bishop John Noonan and Superintendent of Catholic Schools Henry Fortier share a message of hope, love and trust in God. Speaking on the theme of this school year, “My Soul Proclaims the Goodness of the Lord,” they showcase the good works of our students in service to others, and the faith and resiliency of our school communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. We may have been socially distanced, but we remained emotionally and spiritually connected. Lastly, they thank those who made this school year such a success — our principals, parents, students and benefactors.

To view to the complete message, click [here](#).

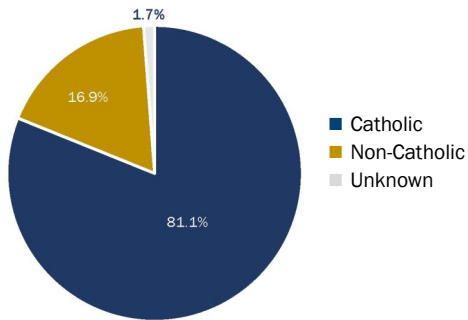
# Whom We Serve

There are **43 Catholic Schools** in the Diocese of Orlando, serving infants, toddlers, and students PreK through 12th grade. Schools are located in Brevard, Lake, Marion, Orange, Osceola, Polk, Seminole, and Volusia counties.

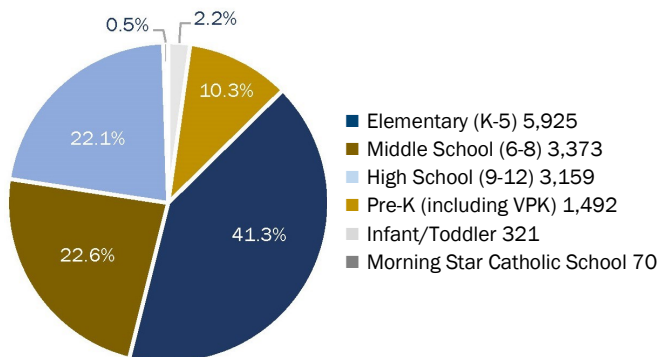
## Ethnicity



## Religious Affiliation



## Grade Level



## Accredited and State-Certified

**All Catholic schools** in the Diocese of Orlando are accredited by the **Florida Catholic Conference** and meet or exceed all state standards. Catholic high schools are also accredited through **Cognia**. To further promote our Catholic schools' mission, all schools are evaluated using the **National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools**.

Lastly, 100% of eligible faculty are **certified by the State of Florida**.



## Our Mission

Catholic schools in the Diocese of Orlando proclaim the Gospel message within an academic environment of excellence that challenges students to be creative and critical thinkers who integrate faith, moral leadership and compassionate service in order to create a more just and humane world.



## Our Schools

### **Brevard County**

Melbourne Central Catholic High School\*  
 Ascension Catholic School\*  
 Divine Mercy Catholic Academy\*  
 Holy Name of Jesus Catholic School\*  
 Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School  
 Our Saviour Catholic School\*  
 St. Joseph Catholic School, Palm Bay\*  
 St. Mary Catholic School\*  
 St. Teresa Catholic School

### **Lake County**

St. Paul Catholic School

### **Marion County**

Trinity Catholic High School  
 Blessed Trinity Catholic School  
 Queen of Peace Children's House Montessori

\* Indicates a U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon School of Excellence

### **Orange County**

Bishop Moore Catholic High School  
 Good Shepherd Catholic School\*  
 Holy Family Catholic School\*  
 Morning Star Catholic School  
 Resurrection Catholic Church Preschool  
 St. Andrew Catholic School\*  
 St. Charles Borromeo Catholic School\*  
 St. James Cathedral School\*  
 St. John Vianney Catholic School\*  
 St. Margaret Mary Catholic School\*  
 St. Patrick Early Learning Center

### **Osceola County**

Holy Redeemer Catholic School  
 St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School

### **Polk County**

Santa Fe Catholic High School  
 Neumann Early Learning Academy  
 Resurrection Catholic School\*  
 St. Anthony Catholic School  
 St. Joseph Academy, Lakeland  
 St. Joseph Catholic School, Winter Haven

### **Seminole County**

All Souls Catholic School\*  
 Annunciation Catholic Academy\*  
 St. Mary Magdalen Catholic School\*  
 Sts. Peter and Paul Early Learning Center

### **Volusia County**

Father Lopez Catholic High School  
 Basilica School of St. Paul  
 Little Blessings Preschool  
 Lourdes Academy\*  
 Sacred Heart Catholic School\*  
 St. Brendan Catholic School  
 St. Peter Catholic School

### **Dominican Republic**

Centro San Pablo,  
 Centro Sagrada Familia,  
 Nuestra Senora de Altigracia,  
 Centro San Francisco de Asis  
 San Maximilian Kolbe Middle School



# Spiritually Formed and Called to Serve

**53%**

8th grade graduates matriculated to Catholic high schools.

**136,000+**

Documented service hours.

**192**

Formal spiritual retreats were held for students and/or faculty.

**420**

Major service projects conducted by our students in all grade levels – preschool, elementary school, middle school, and high schools. Students participate in a multitude of service projects, serving their parishes, schools, communities, and the Diocese of San Juan de la Maguana, our sister diocese in the Dominican Republic.



The faith-centered environment of our Catholic schools is at the heart of what sets us apart from other educational institutions. Through a solid religious curriculum, taught by certified teachers with catechist training and a focus on service to others, our students gain a deep understanding of Christ and our Catholic faith. They grow in their love and knowledge of Christ through daily prayer, as well as in the regular celebration of Mass and seasonal liturgical prayer services and events.



**Catholic schools help students discover their God-given gifts and talents and teach them to use their gifts in service to others. It is in sharing our gifts with others that we truly show gratitude to God.**



Research shows that Catholic school graduates are more committed to service as adults. Three Bishop Moore Catholic High School Class of 2019 graduates exemplify this notion. Instead of heading off to college or the military, James Nguyen, Jacob Carbonelle and Daniel Gomez, embarked on a mission to improve the lives of the children and adults of the Thiên Bình Orphanage, a community located on the outskirts of Ho Chi Min City in Vietnam and run by a group of 21 religious sisters. The three young men spent up to a year working the land, demolishing and rebuilding buildings damaged by storms, teaching children English, and maintaining the compound and gardens.





Every year, the Office of Catholic Schools presents the **St. Teresa of Calcutta Award** to one PreK-8 school and one high school in recognition for service projects completed during the academic year. Projects are based on the seven Corporal Works of Mercy: feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, bury the dead, shelter the traveler, comfort the sick, and free the imprisoned. Congratulations to **Resurrection Catholic School** and **Trinity Catholic High School**, recipients of the 2019-2020 award!

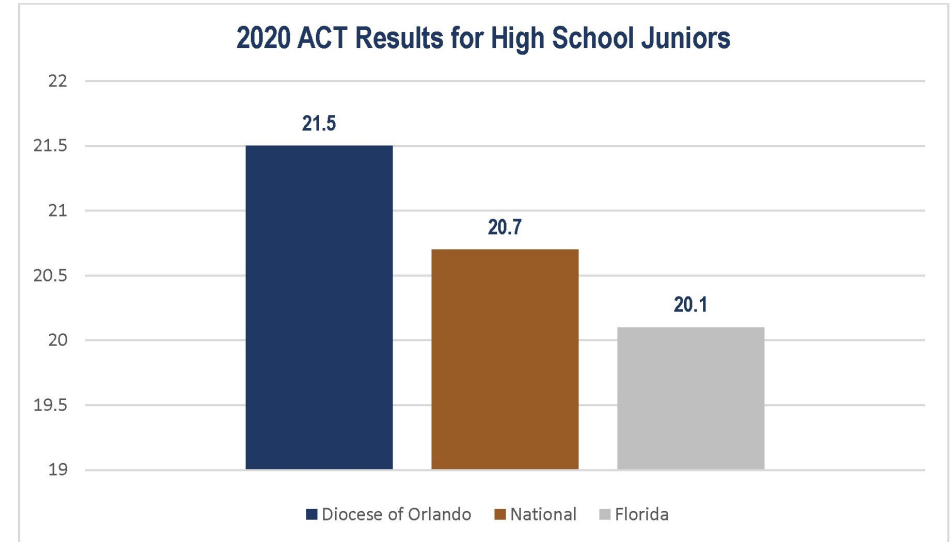
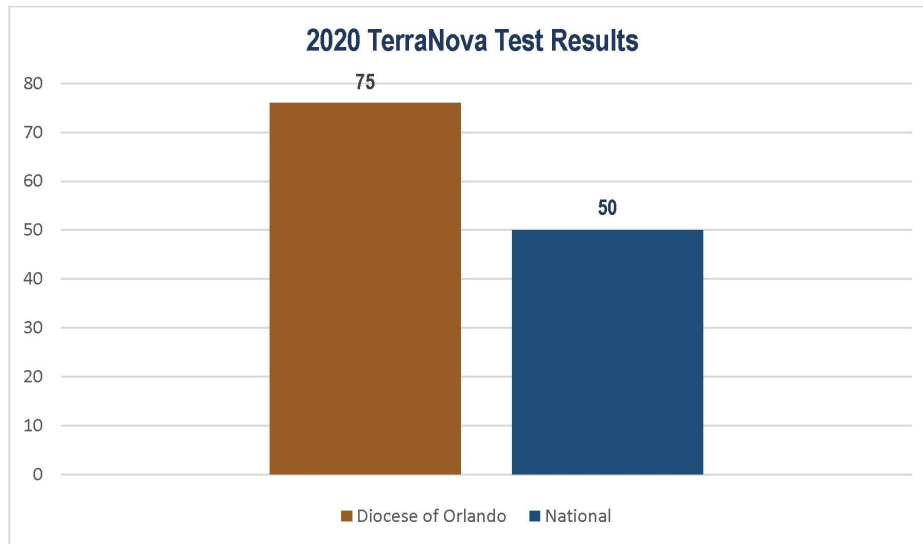
Our faculty and administrators lead by example. Every year, educators travel to our sister diocese in the Dominican Republic either leading a group of high school missionaries or serving on education missions. While the pandemic thwarted late year missions, a few educators, such as Nathan Nadeau, principal at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic School, were able to make mission trips earlier in the year. Nadeau made his first trip to the Dominican Republic in Summer 2019, and assisted in getting two SMARTBoards for schools in Los Frios, through the goodwill of a donor and in sharing a portion of the school's fundraising efforts.

Throughout the school year, our school communities collect numerous items — from food to clothing to personal items — that benefit those less fortunate locally and worldwide. For example (above), Edwin Disang, a native of Mmadinare, Botswana and now girl's soccer coach at Melbourne Central Catholic High School, spearheaded a uniform and equipment drive that benefitted six primary school teams from his hometown. Close to 80 soccer balls, cones, training vests and uniforms were sent. Below, students from Sacred Heart Catholic School show some of the food items they collected for the local food bank.

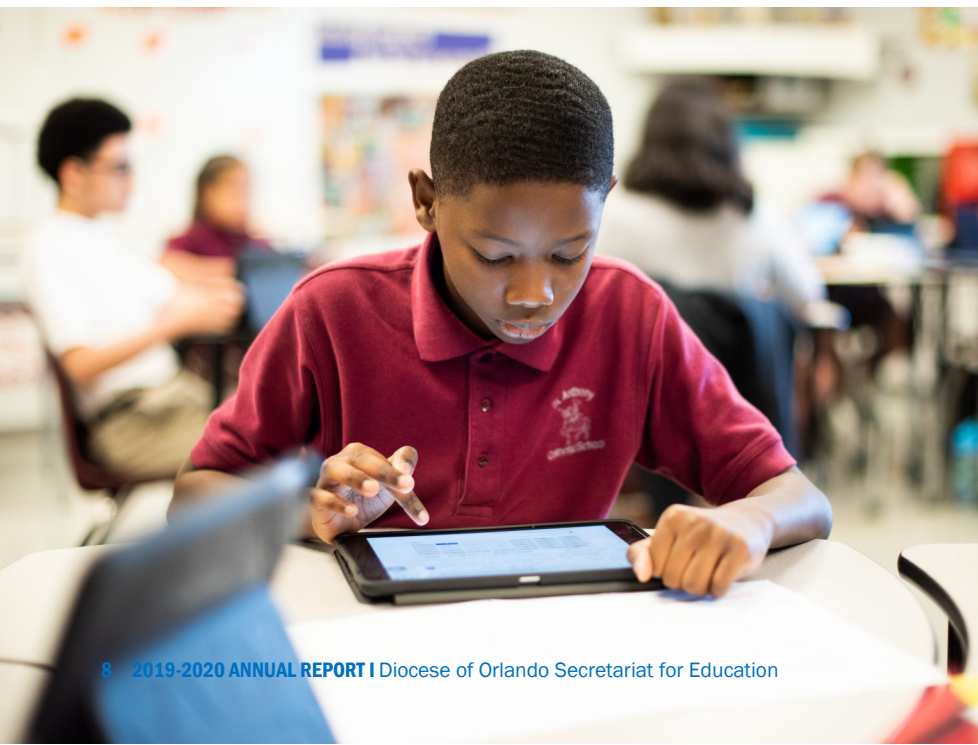


# Academically Engaged and Enriched

Diocese of Orlando Catholic School students outperform their peers in public and other private schools.



**Our students continually score above state and national scores on standardized testing.**





**Academic Accolades:**

- Annunciation Catholic Academy’s VEX Robotics Team, Rock'em Sock'em Stars, qualified for the VEX World Championship and were slated to represent the State of Florida in the world championship in April; however, the competition was cancelled because of COVID.
- Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School took first place honors in the Brevard County Odyssey of the Mind competition.
- A team of Holy Family Catholic School students qualified for state competition in the Science Olympiad, outperforming many STEM schools.
- A team of fourth graders from St. John Vianney Catholic School won “Best in Fair” for their design of a robot plow at the Curtis Rising Stars competition at the Florida Science Center in February 2020.
- St. Teresa Catholic School students won several awards at the Brevard County Science Fair in the following categories: Chemistry, Physics, Earth and Environmental, Mathematics and Computers, and Microbiology.
- The 7th grade team at St. Mary Magdalen Catholic School were regional winners in the Toshiba Exploravision competition.
- Three students from Holy Redeemer Catholic School were finalists in Osceola County’s Battle of the Books.

**Diocese of Orlando Catholic School students have many opportunities to discover and develop their God-given talents through a wide variety of extracurricular and enrichment offerings. Each year, our schools add programs and activities based on student interests and needs. Here is a sampling of the NEW offerings at some of our schools for 2019-2020:**

- |                                            |                                |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Elementary Drama for K-5</b>            | <b>Learn Japanese</b>          |
| <b>Applied Math &amp; Engineering Club</b> | <b>Indoor Soccer</b>           |
| <b>TV Production</b>                       | <b>Chess</b>                   |
| <b>Enrichment/Gifted Program</b>           | <b>STREAM Club</b>             |
| <b>Robotics</b>                            | <b>Student Lighthouse Team</b> |



# Physically Driven\*

## 5,283

Number of registered participants in K-8 sports. Our schools are part of the Catholic Youth Sports Association and compete against each other and other private schools.

## 50

High school graduates received athletic scholarships.

## 3

Number of regional championships won in our high schools.

## 7

Number of district championships won in our high schools.

### STATE CHAMPIONS!

- Zach B. – 500 Freestyle, Swimming
  - Ainsley M. – Girl's Golf
  - Competitive Cheer



\* Please note that several sports seasons were cut short or canceled because of COVID-19.



## Ready for Tomorrow

**100%**

of high school seniors from our five Catholic high schools graduated.

**97%**

of our students headed to college or the military.

**19**

high school students had a perfect score on any portion of the ACT test

**325**

number of colleges in which our graduates were accepted.

**\$74 million**

Amount of money our graduates earned in scholarships.

## *Congratulations!* to our high school valedictorians!

Aaron Beaird

**Bishop Moore Catholic High School**

Alexis Dawson

**Father Lopez Catholic High School**

Mark Motsch

**Santa Fe Catholic High School**

Bailey McCracken

**Trinity Catholic High School**

Sabrina Barella, Teddy Brunger, Carson

Chavez, Gabe Closson, Maria Colombo,

Janneth Feria-Martinez, Lyndsi Graham,

Dalton Haire, Danny Haire, Lauren Han,

Ariyana Kermani, Armon Kermani,

Brendan Lestrangle, Diego Machado,

Abby Pallo, Lauren Tierney

**Melbourne Central Catholic High School**

## Early Education

**100%**

of our elementary schools offer Learning Programs

**100%**

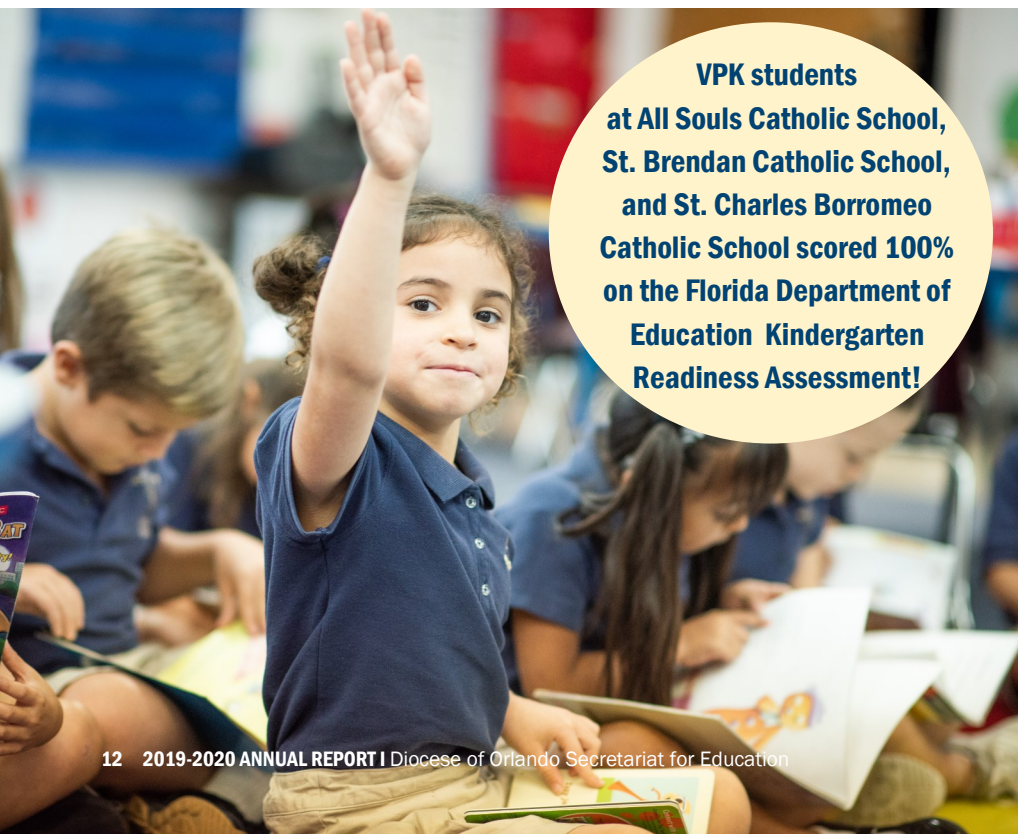
Early learning programs are accredited by the Florida Catholic Conference. This includes our newest Early Learning Center, Neumann Early Learning Academy!

**6**

Stand-alone Early Learning Centers in the Diocese of Orlando. These schools are ministries of their respective parishes; however, they adhere to all diocesan Catholic school standards.

**0-4**

Ages served by our Early Learning Centers. This includes infant to toddler, PreK3, PreK4 and VPK.



**VPK students  
at All Souls Catholic School,  
St. Brendan Catholic School,  
and St. Charles Borromeo  
Catholic School scored 100%  
on the Florida Department of  
Education Kindergarten  
Readiness Assessment!**

### **New Early Learning Center opens!**

We were pleased to open another Early Learning Center to serve the needs of our families with young children. On Aug. 4, Lisa Wudtke cut the ribbon, officially inaugurating the Neumann Early Learning Academy in Lakeland, the diocese's 43rd Catholic School.

"I am happy to announce our first day of school for Neumann Early Learning Academy will be Aug. 14," Wudtke, director, said during the special event. "Soon the classrooms and hallways will be filled with the joys and laughter of children again. I cannot wait to foster their love for learning, but more importantly, doing so in an environment where they are having fun and nurturing their love for God."

Located on the same campus as St. John Neumann Parish, the center welcomed students ages three and four, for the 2019-2020 school year.

Father Jarek Szybel, pastor, was on hand to bless the building.

The school's mission is to develop the whole child, meeting his or her needs developmentally, spiritually, socially, emotionally, and academically in a Christ-centered, caring environment.

**Resurrection Catholic School preschool in Lakeland was named  
"Best of the Best" in Central Florida by the Lakeland Ledger.**

# Morning Star Catholic School

Founded in 1960 by the Sisters of St. Joseph of St. Augustine, Morning Star Catholic School provides students with special needs the opportunity to discover their gifts and achieve their personal best as children of God.

3

Number of spiritual retreats held for students. Faculty and staff also participated in retreats.

5

Number of service projects Morning Star Catholic School students participated in.

Nearly

3 out of 4

Morning Star Catholic School students are integrated into regular classrooms, learning alongside their fellow Catholic school peers at Bishop Moore Catholic High School and St. Charles Borromeo Catholic School.



**Cameron, Juan, Chase, and Darby, pictured with Dr. Alicia Abbey, principal, graduated!**



**Morning Star students rocked the runway during Runway for Giving, the school's annual fundraising event. This year's event was held at the Loews Sapphire Falls Resort at Universal Orlando. Students served as hosts, models and entertainers.**



## Introducing Comet the Superhero!

There's a new celebrity on the Morning Star campus — **Comet the Superhero**. In the Spring, Morning Star students voted on who would be their new school mascot — Comet the Dog, Comet the Bird, or Comet the Superhero. In a runaway decision, Comet the Superhero prevailed. Now he can be seen frequently around campus, especially during special events, and the children love him.

# COVID 19: A Change in Direction

Although socially distanced, we remained emotionally and spiritually connected.

On March 13, 2020, Henry Fortier, Diocese of Orlando Superintendent of Catholic Schools, announced that all Catholic schools in the diocese would go on an extended Spring Break as decisions about how to best educate our children in the midst of an emerging national pandemic, **COVID-19**, were made.

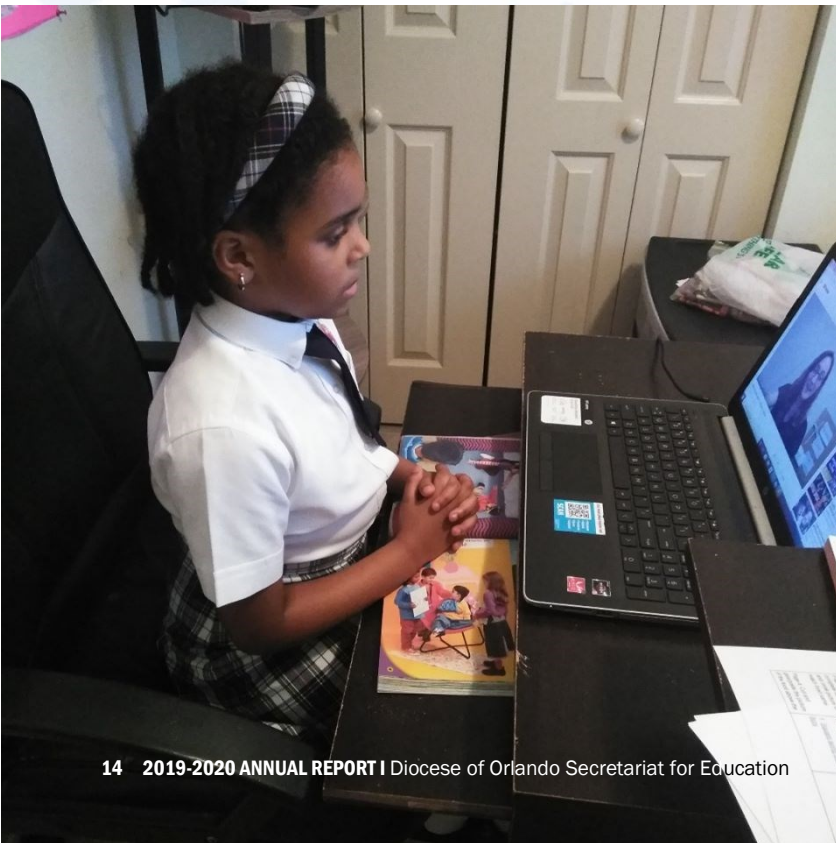
During this two-week period, we surveyed our families and loaned out computers to those in need. Our teachers revised lesson plans and teaching methods to accommodate the new way of learning via group virtual and one-on-one ZOOM instruction.

Then, Governor Ron DeSantis announced that virtual learning was to begin

state wide on March 30 and all school buildings would be closed through April 15. And we were ready.

The re-opening date was moved back one more time before all schools throughout the state of Florida were closed by the governor for the remainder of the academic year.

Our communities made the best of a difficult situation as they adapted to the new way of learning. While there were some bumps in the road and a bit of anxiety along the way, all in all, our communities met the challenge, which enabled our students to remain on track in their grade levels, as they continued to learn and grow in their love of Jesus from home.



## 1,763

Number of computer devices loaned out.

## 0

Number of missed days of education from March 30 to the end of the year.

We were happy to continue to offer weekly Mass, May Crownings, enrichment classes, graduations, "dances," birthday celebrations, and other Catholic school traditions!

## Highlights:

- ◆ Every day began with a reflection on faith and/or a student-led prayer.
- ◆ STEM assignments were intentionally assigned to involve the whole family.
- ◆ Teachers hosted "just to chat" ZOOM meetings to keep students connected.
- ◆ "Our teachers rocked the impossible! Proving once again that with God, all things are possible."
- ◆ Alumni athletes recorded video tutorials.
- ◆ Daily checklists kept students on task.





“One of the things that distinguishes us as Catholics schools, from the public schools, is that each day our teachers are doing sessions with the students together. The students are still seeing and communicating with each other in these virtual classrooms. Following our safe environment protocols for technology, our students are still connected.... There are live discussions and connectivity. We are ‘social’ distancing, not ‘emotional’ distancing. Emotionally, we need to stay more connected than ever. We are honoring social distancing through the closure of our buildings, but we are ramping up our emotional connectivity through lots of activities that parishes and San Pedro are putting out for our schools from a faith aspect, needed especially at a time like this.”

— Henry Fortier  
Superintendent of Catholic Schools

**Virtual tours** became the “in” way to promote our schools. Today, prospective families can learn about any of our individual schools from their computer devices.



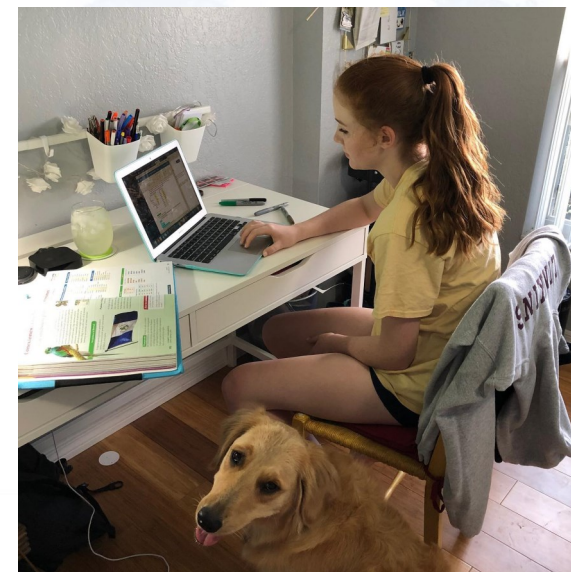
We told our teachers that we loved them and congratulated our graduates through yard signs.



We celebrated Mass at the dining room table.



Virtual Spirit Days made us smile.



Bringing your dog to class was now allowed.

# Top Educators

**39%**

of our faculty are alumni of Catholic education.

**38%**

of our faculty hold advanced degrees.

**100%**

of our eligible faculty are state-certified **and** have completed the first level of Faith Formation catechist training, which entails more than 25 hours of course work and a spiritual retreat. Ongoing faith formation is an ongoing requirement of all educators.



Donna Witherspoon, principal at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School, was named recipient the 2019 Jenni Heneghan Distinguished Leadership of the Year Award, named in honor of the late Jennifer Heneghan. The award is presented to an educator who exemplifies her spirit, faith life and professionalism.

Three Diocese of Orlando Catholic Schools principals were among an elite group of educators tapped to participate in the prestigious 2019-2020 Dr. Brian Dasser Leadership Academy. **Shelley Niswonger**, principal at Sacred Heart Catholic School; **Patricia Becker**, principal at St. Anthony Catholic School; and **David Parker**, principal at Divine Mercy Catholic School, successfully completed the yearlong, job-embedded professional learning opportunity, sponsored by the Florida Department of Education in partnership with the University of Washington's Center for Educational Leadership and the Northeast Florida Educational Consortium. With a little more than 150 principals and supervisors invited to participate annually, the cohort represents the top educational leaders statewide.



We welcomed several new administrators:

- **Dr. Alicia Abbey**, principal of Morning Star Catholic School. Abbey was the assistant principal last year.
- **Nicholas Regina**, new president of Melbourne Central Catholic High School. He brings 30 years of Catholic school experience.
- **Anthony Gutierrez**, principal of Holy Redeemer Catholic School. Gutierrez served as assistant principal at St. James Cathedral School for four years.
- **Lisa Wudtke**, director of the newly opened Neumann Early Learning Academy in Lakeland.
- **Janet Peddecord**, principal of Our Saviour Catholic School. She began this position in January of 2019.
- **Patricia Becker**, former assistant principal of St. Anthony Catholic School in Lakeland, is now principal.
- **Gloria Del Orbe**, former principal of Holy Redeemer Catholic School, is now principal at Good Shepherd Catholic School.
- **Jayme Hartmann**, former principal of Good Shepherd Catholic School, is now principal of St. James Cathedral School.



**79** Number of faculty members who are also alumni at the school at which they teach.

Aubrey Dunn, a first grade teacher at St. Margaret Mary Catholic School, was featured in *The Florida Catholic* for not only teaching at her alma mater, but for also being the second person in her family to teach at the school. Aubrey's great-grandmother, seen in a photo with a younger Miss Dunn, was St. Margaret Mary's first kindergarten teacher. "I love that I am carrying on the legacy of my great-grandmother," Aubrey said. Graduating from the school in 2007, Aubrey marked the third generation of Dunn alumni from St. Margaret Mary.



# 2019-2020 Distinguished Teachers

as selected by their school leaders

## Early Learning Centers

### Maria Romero de Anderson

Resurrection Preschool, Winter Garden

## K-8 Teachers

### Molly Moran

All Souls Catholic School, Sanford

### Christine Summers

Annunciation Catholic Academy, Altamonte Springs

### Danielle Thomas

Ascension Catholic School, Melbourne

### Mark Wetherell

Basilica School of St. Paul, Daytona Beach

### Faith Morales

Blessed Trinity Catholic School, Ocala

### Elizabeth Chitko

Divine Mercy Catholic Academy, Merritt Island

### Scott Pasch

Good Shepherd Catholic School, Orlando

### Tami Murphy

Holy Family Catholic School, Orlando

### Jennifer Keller

Holy Name of Jesus Catholic School, Indialantic

### Maria Muñoz

Holy Redeemer Catholic School, Kissimmee

### Melanie Wilson

Lourdes Academy, Daytona Beach

### Yamila Colon-Ramos

Morning Star Catholic School, Orlando

### Rebecca Booth

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School, Melbourne

### Kathy DiLoreto

Our Saviour Catholic School, Cocoa Beach

### Cindy Stanford

Resurrection Catholic School, Lakeland

### Jeannie Ferguson

Sacred Heart Catholic School, New Smyrna Beach

### Jenilee Cruz

St. Andrew Catholic School, Orlando

### Sheryl Buckner

St. Anthony Catholic School, Lakeland

### Christine Goebel

St. Brendan Catholic School, Ormond Beach

### Karri Lynn Gomez

St. Charles Borromeo Catholic School, Orlando

### Elizabeth Sayers O'Neill

St. James Cathedral School, Orlando

### Dohrienne Baker

St. John Vianney Catholic School, Orlando

### Michael Pagoria

St. Joseph Catholic School, Palm Bay

### Janina Freeland

St. Joseph Catholic School, Winter Haven

### Niamh Barry

St. Margaret Mary Catholic School, Winter Park

### Mary Pat Altman

St. Mary Catholic School, Rockledge

### Maureen Copeland

St. Mary Magdalen Catholic School, Altamonte Springs

### Geri Connell

St. Paul Catholic School, Leesburg

### Dylane Cinicolo

St. Peter Catholic School, Deland

### Jaime Stanifer

St. Teresa Catholic School, Titusville

### Mayra Borcea

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School, St. Cloud

## High Schools

### John Timmes

Bishop Moore Catholic High School, Orlando

### Mollie Bentley

Melbourne Central Catholic High School, Melbourne

### Jim Kelly

Father Lopez Catholic High School, Daytona Beach

### Paulette Logsdon

Santa Fe Catholic High School, Lakeland

### Cassidy Gleaton

Trinity Catholic High School, Ocala



Faith Morales at Blessed Trinity Catholic School, Ocala



Tami Murphy at Holy Family Catholic School, Orlando



Michael Pagoria at St. Joseph Catholic School, Palm Bay

Every year, educators across the diocese gather for the Office of Catholic School's annual **Educator Kick-Off event**, normally held at Holy Family Catholic Church on the Monday before the start of school. The day features the celebration of Mass, a speaker, and the ever popular presentation of the **Diocese of Orlando Distinguished Catholic School Educator Award**, presented by Superintendent Henry Fortier, to each school's top teacher as selected by the school administration. This year, because of the pandemic, the event was held on individual school campuses, and our principals were honored to recognize their top teacher for 2019-2020.



## Bishop Moore breaks ground on the Moore Center for Excellence

Bishop John Noonan blessed the ground for the new Moore Center for Excellence on the Bishop Moore Catholic High School campus on January 27 before Tom Doyle, president, and Scott Brogan, principal, joined him in breaking ground for the new building.

Located by the school's playing fields, the 28,000 square foot, two-story, state-of-the-art facility will feature a new training room, locker rooms, as well as classrooms and meeting rooms.

In addition, the Moore Center will have conference space, a catering kitchen, and a store where fans can stock up on Bishop Moore merchandise. There will also be a reception hall with balconies overlooking the sports fields and a tunnel so student athletes can run onto the field.

The project would not be possible without the many donors who came up with more than \$3 million in funding. The Moore Center for Excellence is scheduled to be complete by late 2020.

All faculty were trained in “Youth Mental First Aid” by the end of the 2019-2020 academic year. Presented by counselors from Catholic Charities, the workshop taught our educators how to identify early warning signs of mental health issues in our students and to intervene early with assistance.

School administrators, key staff, and the Office of Catholic Schools staff received the training in 2018-2019.

The program is part of our continuing effort to improve safety on our campuses as well serve the needs of our children.



As part of its commitment to ensure the safety and well-being of all students in Catholic schools in the diocese, the Office of Catholic Schools introduced a social media seminar geared just for parents. “Unintended Consequences: The Hidden Impact of Growing Up Digitally” taught parents about the hidden impact of digital exposure on children’s physical and mental development.

Created and presented by Tami Murphy, a middle school teacher at Holy Family Catholic School, the seminar covered social media, brain

development, grooming, human trafficking, safety measures, and “the good, the bad, and the ugly” of popular social media apps.

Throughout her teaching career, Murphy has advocated for children as an educator, instructional coach, and social media director. Seminar explores the hidden dangers of social media. She said her keen interest in social media responsibility, internet safety, and adolescent brain development surged when her children were in middle school.

“The social media world in which our children are growing up in is vastly different than the world many parents knew as children,” Murphy said. “It poses both possibilities and perils new and unique to this generation. We’re starting to see how these platforms affect learning and scientific studies are giving us more insight on the impact of social media on young, developing minds.”



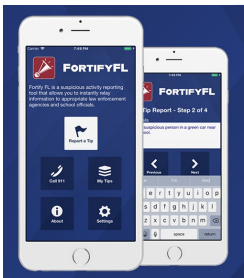
## St. Joseph Academy merges with Polk Catholic schools

On May 22, 2020, St. Joseph Academy in Lakeland announced that it will merge with nearby Catholic schools at the end of the 2019-2020 school year. Despite herculean efforts to save the school, even considering moving back to its original building on Lemon Street, it was simply not feasible.

“What we could not have imagined was the COVID-19 pandemic and its effect upon our world in such a short time,” said Father Tim LaBo, pastor of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Lakeland. “Our economy has changed dramatically. Many families have been out of work, businesses are struggling to stay open, and many of our parishioners have requested financial assistance. These factors have had a serious impact on re-enrollment numbers.”

The Office of Catholic Schools’ staff assisted families in answering questions and integrating them into St. Joseph Catholic School in Winter Haven and Resurrection Catholic School, St. Anthony Catholic School, and Neumann Early Learning Academy, all in Lakeland.

In the end, 90% of our SJA families remained in our Catholic school system.



We are pleased to announce that the FortifyFL app is LIVE and available to all of our school communities. Created in response to the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting in Parkland, FL 2018, the app allows any student, educator, parent, or member of the public to report school safety concerns directly to law enforcement and school administrators anonymously and easily. It is another measure we are taking to ensure the safety of our communities.

# Emergency Preparedness Enhanced

Because we believe a uniform, planned, and practiced response to any incident is the foundation of a safe school, we continued to improve security on our campuses throughout the year.

With the focus on “Plan. Prepare. Practice,” we rolled out of the Standard Response Protocols (SRP), an action-based, flexible, and easy-to-learn plan of organized tactics for response to weather events, fires, accidents, intruders, and other threats to student safety, to all of our school communities.

The protocols laid out a uniform language in response to emergencies. Our verbiage was also shared with emergency response teams within our various cities and communities.

As part of our efforts, all schools received SRP posters in English and Spanish to display in every classroom and throughout their buildings.

Teachers also received a Standard Response Protocol Emergency flip chart, and parents were given a reference guide.



## Topics covered in regional emergency trainings for teachers:

1. Foster engaging relationships in our school community.
2. Nurturing a supportive culture of mutual respect.
3. Building resiliency in our students so they become better responding to adverse situations.
4. Responding to emergencies using the common language of SRP.

**Since the onset of the COVID-19 virus, the Office of Catholic Schools has and continues to work closely with the CDC, state, county, and local health departments to ensure that all health and safety, as well as all cleaning protocols are being implemented to ensure the well-being of our communities.**

# San Pedro Center

**388**

Number of groups that held meetings/events at San Pedro Center.

**10,467**

People participated in these events.

**147**

Number of boys and girls who spent part of their summer break at one or more of our summer camps.

**380**

Senior men and women participated in 10 Senior Days. Because of COVID, the April event was virtual!

**\$24K**

Amount of money raised during the gala. A portion of these funds went to camp scholarships.

Like all other diocesan entities, the COVID 19 pandemic hindered the many in-person offerings at San Pedro Center.

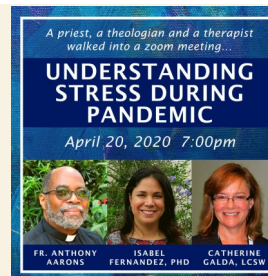


*“The counselors were so wonderful, and I feel the kids grew a lot spiritually. I know it was a huge sacrifice of love for all who helped at the camp, so thank you!”*

— Parent of a camper



Family Night is a popular holiday tradition at San Pedro.



## San Pedro Center responds to COVID crisis

In the wake of the rising anxiety of the international pandemic, people sought solace and spiritual guidance, and the staff at San Pedro responded by creating three new virtual programs that addressed the spiritual and emotional needs of the faithful. The programs included weekly events, including Bible studies and reflections; various self-paced

retreats; and the well-attended 4-part series, “A Priest, a Theologian, and a Therapist Walk into a ZOOM Meeting.” Many of these offerings are still available on the San Pedro website: [www.sanpedrocenter.org/at-home-retreats](http://www.sanpedrocenter.org/at-home-retreats).

## 1,100

Number of jars of peanut butter delivered to the people of the Diocese of San Juan de la Manguana. Our Catholic School students donated a majority of these jars.

## 640

Number of shoes donated to the people of the Dominican Republic.

## 9,535

Number of hours shared by construction, educational, pastoral, and medical missionaries on **nine** missions.

## 3,210

Number of hours donated by other volunteers.

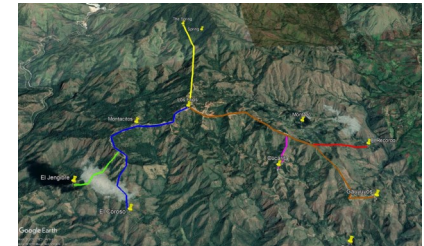


Forty-one families in the remote community of La Cueva in our sister diocese, San Juan de la Maguana, Dominican Republic, will soon have a safer place to call home, thanks to a generous grant from the **Ruckstuhl Foundation** (for 40 of the homes) and one anonymous donor (one home). Most families live in ramshackle homes that are vulnerable against the tropical storms that rip across the country. Once the houses are complete, these families will have a sturdy block house to call home. All future homeowners are assisting in the construction of their homes.

As of late 2020, the exterior block walls have been erected in the first 12 houses. When these 12 houses have exterior walls, the foundation of three more houses will be worked on, and so on. The roofs will be built once a group of construction missionaries gets the opportunity to travel to the Dominican Republic to work with the locals. The pandemic has hampered mission efforts since Spring.

The Mission Office is trying to help these families get a small four-burner gas stove or table top stove so they are able to cook inside their homes. They are also trying to get solar panels for these new houses.

### Additional Ongoing Projects:



**Multi Community Water project:** Locals started digging the trenches in early 2020. The water comes from a spring found on a mountain and will provide running water to homes in approximately nine villages.

An Japanese Embassy grant is funding a **Multi-Purpose Pavilion** for sports, assemblies, and recreational activities. This project started in early 2020 but had to stop because of a major landslide caused by excessive rain. The project is slated to be finished by June 2021.

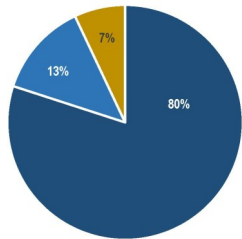


When Luis Jose Aybar De Los Santos, pictured left, learned that he had been selected to go to the United States to earn his high school diploma as part of the Mission Office's International Student Program, he vowed that he would return to his homeland to use his education to benefit the people of the mountain. Luis made good on his promise this past year. After graduating from Bishop Moore Catholic in 2015, and UCF in 2019 with a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering, he returned home and is now overseeing the Ruckstuhl Foundation housing construction project (above) with the remote supervision of volunteer Emmett Sapp.

# Financially Sound

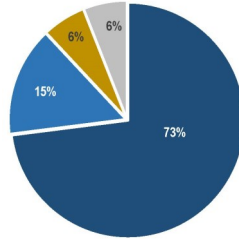
## Revenue

Early Learning Centers



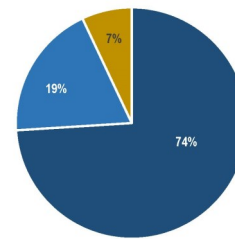
- Net Tuition & Fees, \$4,903,284
- Fundraising & Development Support, \$764,402
- All Other, \$440,249

PreK-8 Schools



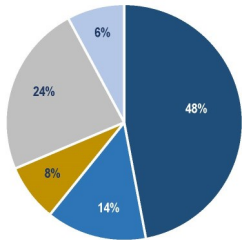
- Net Tuition & Fees, \$66,831,128
- Fundraising & Development Support, \$13,824,081
- All Other, \$5,187,708
- Parish Support, \$5,940,419

High Schools

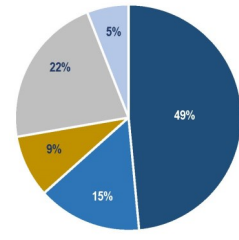


- Net Tuition & Fees, \$33,381,597
- Fundraising & Development Support, \$8,353,749
- All Other, \$3,277,729

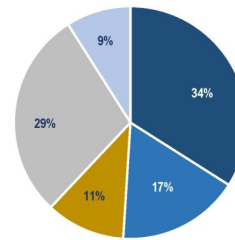
## Expenses



- Instructional, \$2,858,123
- Administration, \$810,139
- Plant, \$457,657
- Fixed & Other, \$1,426,527
- Ancillary, \$388,812



- Instructional, \$40,702,158
- Administration, \$12,546,170
- Plant, \$7,108,203
- Fixed & Other, \$18,149,566
- Ancillary & Athletics, \$3,976,951



- Instructional, \$13,369,322
- Administration, \$6,755,239
- Plant, \$4,283,198
- Fixed & Other, \$11,115,347
- International, Ancillary & Athletics, \$3,352,151

Thank  
You

**\$344,850**

Amount of tuition assistance distributed from these three diocesan-wide tuition assistance endowment funds.

AIC Tuition Assistance Endowment Fund  
Adelaida Valdes Endowment Fund  
Fr. Frank Zammit Endowment Fund

**\$340,684**

Endowment earnings distributed from the additional 30 school-specific endowment funds held at The Catholic Foundation. In addition to scholarships and tuition assistance, these funds also provide dollars for programs and operations.

*Endowment Funds provide an ongoing source of revenue for our Catholic Schools. Thanks to the generosity of donors through The Catholic Foundation of Central Florida, families throughout the diocese are able to realize the dream of Catholic education for their children.*

## Catholic Education is affordable!

Many of our families are able to send their children to Catholic schools thanks to the following support:

**\$16,778,561**

in Catholic tuition assistance and other tuition and fee allowances offered by local parishes and schools

**\$2,207,450**

in VPK allowances (serving 954 students)

**\$26,097,273**

in Florida tax credit scholarships (serving 3,906 students)

**\$2,937,089**

in Florida Empowerment scholarships (serving 488 students)

**\$5,296,774**

in McKay scholarships (serving 840 students)

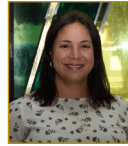
**\$2,171,084**

in Gardiner scholarships (serving 273 students)

# Meet the Staff



**Mr. Henry Fortier**  
Secretary for Education  
and Superintendent of Catholic Schools



**Dr. Isabel Fernandez**  
Director of Mission Effectiveness



**Ms. Phyllis Mann**  
Administrative Assistant



**Dr. Jacquelyn Flanigan**  
Associate Superintendent  
of Catholic Schools



**Mrs. Margie Garland-Aguilar**  
Director of Instructional Technology



**Mrs. Kathy Martin**  
Administrative Assistant



**Ms. Patricia Daily**  
Associate Superintendent  
of Catholic Schools



**Mrs. Linda Caldwell**  
Director of Marketing, Central Region



**Sister Bernadette Mackay, O.S.U.**  
Director, Mission Office



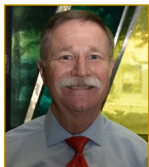
**Mrs. Jacqueline Abrahams**  
Director of School Finance



**Mrs. Maria Del Amo**  
Director of Marketing, Western Region



**Mr. Randall Pinner**  
Director, San Pedro Center



**Dr. Joseph Belinski**  
Director of School Planning



**Mrs. Dawn Melcher**  
Director of Marketing, Eastern Region

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Associate Superintendent of Catholic Schools

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**DIocese OF ORLANDO SECRETARIAT FOR EDUCATION**

Office of Catholic Schools ♦ Mission Office ♦ San Pedro Spiritual Development Center

50 E. Robinson St., Orlando, FL 32801

(407) 246-4900 ♦ [orlandodiocese.org/schools](http://orlandodiocese.org/schools)