



DIOCESE OF GREAT FALLS-BILLINGS

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

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Summer 2024

Dear Catholic School Educators in the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings,

Thank you for your ministry! In June of 2018, Pope Francis' said: "Schools and universities need to be consistent and show continuity between their foundational mission and the church's mission of evangelization.....To fulfill your mission, therefore, you must lay its foundations in a way consistent with our Christian identity, establish means appropriate for the quality of study and research and pursue goals in harmony with service to the common good."

Last year, Christina Vierra McGill, our Commissioner, worked diligently with representatives from across our diocese to establish a set of religion standards which are in alignment with the Catechism of the Catholic Church and are centralized around the four foundation pillars of Profession of Faith, Celebration of Christian Mystery, Life in Christ, and Prayer. These standards also incorporate grade level appropriate activities as well as references to scripture to support understanding of the standard.

I want to confirm my approval of, and appreciation for, the newly adopted religion standards for our diocese. I also want to extend my sincere gratitude for this work and dedication.

The mission of our Catholic Schools is to foster and highlight the innate dignity and intrinsic value of each and every person. Each person is a unique and loved child of God. Our schools seek to form the whole child, with their salvation and the salvation of everyone as the ultimate goal.

As you begin this new academic year, I ask that you remember that the work you do each day should never function outside of our faith. The spirit of our faith should be evident in all subjects and instruction and in every interaction throughout the day. Creating a strong and dynamic relationship with Christ is the goal of all our work in Catholic education. These newly created standards for the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings will be a wonderful resource and framework for your ministry. Again, I thank you.

In His love, joy, and peace

Most Reverend Jeffrey M. Fleming
Bishop of Great Falls-Billings