



Diocese of Palm Beach

9995 North Military Trail • P.O. Box 109650
Palm Beach Gardens, Florida 33410-9650

Office of
THE BISHOP

(561) 775-9595 Fax (561) 775-7035

January 6, 2017

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

The annual collection in support of our Catholic schools will take place next weekend on January 14th and 15th, just a few weeks shy of Catholic Schools Week, which will take place in our Diocese and around the nation January 29th through February 4th. The national theme is ***Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service***.” Through our Catholic schools, we are able to provide an excellent education and pass on our Catholic beliefs to our young people in a context that affects every aspect of their growth and development as persons, and assures them future success after graduation – in life, in business, in their community and most importantly in their faith.

As part of our *Strategic Vision 2020*, it has been our goal to support the mission of our schools by making Christ and our Gospel values present each day to all those who desire a Catholic education for their children, regardless of socio-economic status, race, ethnicity or religious beliefs. **The need to increase the funding available for needs-based tuition assistance to families has never been greater.** Therefore, the Diocese will now allocate funds raised through this Second Collection directly to the schools to be used for tuition assistance through the *Lumen Christi Scholarships*.

The Diocese of Palm Beach is blessed to have 19 Catholic schools and preschools with more than 500 dedicated educators, serving more than 6,000 students. The academic curriculum at our schools is strong, and continues to grow stronger as more programs are added, these programs emphasize Catholic schools as communities of faith, knowledge and service.

In 2016 this annual collection raised \$133,115.16 for our Catholic schools. I am grateful to the people of the Diocese for their support of our efforts to provide scholarships to children who could not otherwise afford to attend Catholic schools. Catholic-school education is a priority in the life of the Diocese of Palm Beach. Your continued support of our diocesan Catholic schools is very much needed and appreciated.

With gratitude for your continued generosity and every prayerful wish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Gerald M. Barbarito
Bishop of Palm Beach

NOTICE TO PASTORS: PLEASE PUBLISH THIS LETTER IN THE PARISH BULLETIN OR HAVE IT READ AT ALL MASSES ON THE WEEKEND OF JANUARY 7 & 8.