Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.
– Luke 2:10

Even though this year we cannot celebrate Advent and Christmas the same ways that we have in the past, it is important to recognize what we can do during this season. I always experienced such joy in going to our schools’ Christmas programs. Seeing whole school communities come together to listen to Christmas hymns and familiar songs was such an important tradition and gave so many people JOY!

One recurring theme communicated in this issue of the Diocese of Reno’s “Good News in Catholic Education” Christmas edition is the gift of JOY shared in our schools’ activities. Many years ago, Father Honesto Agustin, gave a meaningful homily that reminds me that a way to keep JOY in our lives is to always put Jesus first, others second, and yourself last. This simple message is very appropriate today and can serve as a way to keep Advent and Christmas in a meaningful perspective, even when other traditions have changed.

Father Mike Mahone recently sent me a note that I am sharing in part with you. His perspective does focus on the positive: “Hope all is going as well as it can under the present circumstances. Who would have thought, except for God, that we would even think of going through what we are going through. It has to be difficult for you and our schools to keep moving forward with all the barriers we face. But you and all the Principals, teachers, aides and everyone else involved with our Catholic Schools, all of you are to be praised for what you do. God bless you all. Fr. Mike” I also thank our families for doing their part during the pandemic! Keep a joyful perspective!
Please join our schools in supporting D.O.R.S. D.O.R.S. supports students in our schools.

In 2010, Bishop Randolph Calvo created the Diocese of Reno Scholarship (D.O.R.S.) in order to make Catholic Education more accessible in the Diocese of Reno, NV.

With a $50,000 initial investment and support of donors throughout the Diocese, over 120 students have been beneficiaries of the scholarship allowing them to attend Little Flower, St. Albert the Great, St. Teresa of Avila, Our Lady of the Snows and Bishop Manogue Catholic High School. Tuition assistance, given so far, has totaled over $440,000. Thanks to an anonymous donor, all donations have been matched dollar for dollar up to $100,000+ annually since 2010.

Each year, D.O.R.S. applications are submitted to a third party. Need is confirmed at the school and Diocese. Students must meet grade and behavior requirements. Parents must demonstrate a verified financial need. Scholarships follow the student through Catholic schools in the Diocese as long as they maintain acceptable academic progress and continue to have a verified financial need. Funding for elementary schools is up to $2000 per year; funding for Bishop Manogue is up to $4000 per year. For a new kindergarten student, $34,000.00 is allocated to see that child through a Diocese of Reno elementary school and high school graduation from Bishop Manogue. A three-pronged approach, D.O.R.S. contributes, parents pay their portion, and the school assists, too.

Now, more than ever, D.O.R.S. needs the support of all members of the Diocese.

Catholic schools have long been institutions offering faith, hope, joy and love for students. We also provide excellence in education and partner with parents. Most importantly, we are guided by Christ.

Pope Francis affirms this, “Catholic education gives soul to the world.” He goes on to communicate that Catholic schools “unite students and teachers in mutual sharing through ‘a curriculum of life and experience.’” Furthermore, Pope Francis said Catholic education “recognizes that humankind’s moral responsibility today does not just extend through space, but also through time, and that present choices have repercussions for future generations.”


While we are all challenged by the issues of the day, generously supporting D.O.R.S. will provide quality Catholic education for students and make a positive contribution for years to come.

Consider donating to the scholarship fund, which is available to qualifying students in any of our Catholic schools as funds are available:

WWW.CATHOLICRENO SCHOLARSHIP.ORG OR KAREN BARRERAS, 775-326-9430 OR KARENB@CATHOLICRENO.ORG

Thank you for supporting iGiveCatholic earlier this month.
The Diocese of Reno is committed to the safety of our children and vulnerable adults. We are in full compliance with the Dallas Charter and remain diligent in maintaining this compliance.

Through the "Protecting God's Children" program we train people to be more aware of how to protect children and vulnerable adults, and also the possible warning signs of abuse and neglect.

Each year all children within our Religious Education programs and within our schools are provided the opportunity to participate in Empowering God’s Children. Together, all of us can help to create safe environments in our parish, schools, facilities and even beyond.

To register for a background check and also take an online Protecting God's Children Awareness Session, visit our website: https://renodiocese.org/safe-environment/. During COVID-19 restrictions live training is postponed.

If you have already completed the required reading of 24 bulletins and taken the recertification review, it might be interesting for you to know about new information and continue to read bulletins.

Recent topics of bulletins have been:

- The Intersection of Caring Adults and Reporting Abuse
- Increased Online Exploitation of Children Expected During Crises
- The Many Stages of Grooming
- Children Are at Increased Risk for Abuse When Stressors Abound
- Virtual Boundaries: Appropriate Online Safety Measures
- Challenging Times Call for a Change in Behavior
- Virtual Options for Safely Connecting With Others
- Look for the helpers. We are the helpers!
- Mobile Device Dangers: Snapchat, Snap Map and Caller ID Spoofing
- When Children Are at Risk of Sextortion
- The Psychology of Human Trafficking: The Life-Altering Effects on our Children
- Navigation Tools: Potential Abuse Indicators and Child Disclosures
- Healthy Boundaries Help to Prevent Abuse

For additional information or to access recent bulletins, please contact Elda Juarez at (775) 326-9445 or email her at eldaj@catholicreno.org
Catholic School Data from 19-20

The National Catholic Educational Association conducts Catholic education research as well as providing private education resources for a range of audiences. Information contained within these pages include Catholic school data. NCEA published selected results from NCEA's annual survey of Catholic elementary and secondary schools, including enrollment patterns, regional geographic trends, types and locations of schools, student and staffing demographic characteristics, and student participation in selected education programs.

Highlights

Enrollment

- Total Catholic school student enrollment for the current academic year is 1,737,297.
  - 1,201,391 in elementary/middle schools; 535,906 in secondary schools
  - Student diversity: 21.8% are racial minorities, 18.5% are Hispanic/Latino and 6.4% were reported as unknown in the racial data collection.
  - Non-Catholic enrollment is 331,648 which is 19.1% of the total

Schools

- There are 6,183 Catholic schools: 4,995 elementary; 1,188 secondary.
- 10 new schools opened; 98 consolidated or closed.*
- 1,866 schools have a waiting list for admission.

Coeducational schools comprise 98.6% of elementary and 70.8% of secondary schools. At the secondary level, 12.5% of the schools are male and 16.6% are female.

*The reported number of schools closed includes some that consolidated and re-opened as new entities. The total reported opened is 10 which includes newly built as well as the reconfigured entities. The net loss of elementary schools is 97 and the net loss of secondary schools is 9.

Professional Staff

Full-time equivalent professional staff numbered 146,367:

- 97.4%: Laity (Lay women: 75.1% Lay men: 22.3%)
- 2.6%: Religious/Clergy (Sisters: 1.6%; Brothers: 0.4%; Clergy: 0.6%)

The student/teacher ratio is 12:1.
“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” Romans 15:13

We have made it to December of a very long and difficult year. The Christmas season is often a time of joy and merriment, and it always seems to come at the perfect time when everyone needs a holiday. Though the Christmas season’s splendor should be enjoyed and celebrated, it brings with it opportunities of reflection that can sometimes go overlooked. While we prepare for the fun Christmas festivities, we must also prepare ourselves spiritually for honoring the birth of Christ through prayer, mediation and reflection.

For Advent, Bishop Manogue wishes to encourage our students and community to remember the blessings we have been given this year, even if they feel buried under the weight of uncertainty, stress, and mourning. We must unburden our souls and come closer to Christ through our reflection of the past year and note the values that we must continue to exemplify moving forward. The four candles of Advent symbolize hope, faith, joy, and peace, and our community has demonstrated them all in new, meaningful ways.

This year, our Miners inspired us with their hope. Regardless of the obstacles thrown at them, our students were resourceful and resilient as they continued to show positivity each day. Many of them even explored new ways to have fun and connect to one another. They dressed up for spirit days, created entertaining broadcasts for morning announcements, participated in virtual games and activities, and many learned new skills. Our students are full of creativity and positivity and we think they are perfect examples of how to navigate an ever-changing environment.

Our Miner family has much for which to be thankful, and one major source of gratitude is our faith. We are proud to be a Catholic school. And our faith allows us to connect with one another spiritually when we cannot connect socially. This year has encouraged us to dig deeper and find strength in our faith that we may not have otherwise recognized. Through all the uncertainty and misfortune this year, we can find renewed peace knowing that His love for us is steadfast.

Despite everything, we created our own joy this year. We found ways to smile. We found ways to laugh. We have found light in the darkness even when it felt difficult or nearly impossible. Being joyful can be an act of bravery, and this year is proof.

We hope that this Advent season will bring peace to our students, faculty, staff and families. May we all rejoice in His love for us and show gratitude for our blessings. This Advent season holds much on which to reflect and our hearts are with you all as we prepare together spiritually.

Bishop Manogue wishes our entire Miner Family, and those in our extended Catholic School Community, a Merry Christmas!
Happy Advent! As we joyfully prepare for the birth of our savior Jesus Christ, we at St. Albert the Great Catholic School have been busy preparing our hearts by participating in acts of service. We started with our annual Koats for Kids drive organized by the 3rd grade and then we collected money and gift cards for our Thanksgiving Food Drive to help support 60 families from Clayton Middle School. We will end our Advent season with our annual Christmas Stocking Drive that supports Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada.

We begin every week with our virtual morning assembly when our Christian Leadership leads prayer and discusses the meaning and symbolism of each of the four weeks of Advent. So we pray that you have all had weeks full of Hope, Faith, Joy and Peace.

You are the light of the world ... let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:14-16)
OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

We, the community of Our Lady of the Snows Catholic School, in light of the teachings of Christ, are dedicated to promoting the Gospel values, pursuing academic excellence, and preparing students to be responsible citizens who live God’s Word.

‘Tis the season to experience the joy of giving!

Students at Our Lady of the Snows School have taken the lead on our annual Christmas giving campaigns. Through their efforts we were able to reach our goals...and then some!

This year, things are a little different. We partnered with local schools and were able to provide gifts to over 200 children during our Adopt-A-Family campaign. Each child receives gifts of size-specific clothing, socks, an age appropriate toy and other necessities. We are also partnering with Casa de Vida making homemade blankets and Christmas ornaments for the veterans and elderly in our community.

This year’s Christmas Musical is cancelled but we are still celebrating the season! Parents were able to purchase Advent Wreaths as we prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. Classrooms are decorating the halls with their class specific decorations. Students were also involved in decorating the school’s Christmas tree. The students and staff are joyous and very thankful as we celebrate Christmas Season!

We extend our gratitude to our families, teachers, staff and volunteers for the excellence they provide to our school. We ask for God’s abundant blessings for our community as we celebrate Christmas.
Each week during Advent, teachers, students and office staff are present as we usher in the Christmas season with the blessing of the Advent Wreath. We meet around our huge Advent wreath each Tuesday morning at 8:30 for prayers and songs as we remember the meaning of Christmas. I know all of us are thinking how truly blessed we are to have each other and the love of Christ as we celebrate His birth.

This year our Christmas activities will be very different. As we are unable to have our annual Christmas show, the teachers are each doing an activity that is special to the season. Our Fourth grade teacher is putting a video together that highlights her class performing sign language to the song Silent Night. First grade is producing the manger scene with accompanying music. Stories, music, prayers, and of course, parties will be prevalent in the next two weeks.

To express our good fortune and to give back to the community, our Christian Leadership team is collecting items for the Eddy House, whose mission is working with homeless and at-risk-youth to develop life and job skills necessary to sustainable independence. Little Flower students are excited and filled with joy to be sharing their time and efforts to help the youth in Reno/Sparks have a happy Christmas.

From all of us at Little Flower School and Little Flower Church—Merry Christmas!
From the Diocese of Singapore on the Catholic Church and GIVING:
“One of the five precepts of the Catholic Church, alongside the call to attend Mass, receive the Eucharist, go for confession, and observe days of fasting, is to provide for the “material needs of the Church, each according to his own ability” (CCC 2043).
The call to give is in fact a loving encouragement for every Christian to emulate Christ more concretely in daily life. “For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that by His poverty you might become rich”, wrote St Paul to the Corinthians as he urged them to be more giving (2 Cor 8:8).
The Church challenges everyone to regard material wealth “not merely as exclusive” to oneself, but “common to others also, in the sense that they can benefit others as well” (CCC 2404). To Catholics, all created things are gifts from God, given to be shared for the good of all. This attitude of generosity is encouraged in every aspect of life, including toward the Church, so that she may always have what is necessary to truly “make disciples of all nations” (Mt 28:19)

This year St. Teresa School, in keeping with the Christmas Time spirit of joy and giving, collected candy, toiletries and socks for the men and women on the USS William P. Lawrence out of Pearl Harbor. Everything was packed and shipped; (17 boxes in all) to those who serve on the ship, one of whom is one of our school dad’s.  Merry Christmas to all our military families.