



ROMAN CATHOLIC
**DIOCESE
OF CHARLESTON**

OFFICE OF MEDIA RELATIONS

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Aug. 18, 2022

Contact: Maria Aselage, Director of Media Relations

(843) 513-7605 ~ maria@charlestondiocese.org

Catholic schools across the state are attracting a record number of students

CHARLESTON, S.C. – With the new academic year starting, Catholic schools in South Carolina are registering a record number of students. “Our Catholic schools are excited to continue their work in helping parents form their children – mind, body, and soul – in lifelong Christian discipleship,” said Bill Ryan, superintendent of Catholic schools.

More and more parents are choosing a Catholic education for their child or children. Catholic school enrollment continues to grow each year. There has been a 5.5% growth in enrollment since the 2019-2020 academic year. The largest increase occurred at the start of the 2021-2022 school year when Catholic schools reinstated in-person learning while other schools continued virtual learning due to the pandemic.

The diocese’s schools are led by administrators and teachers who challenge students to reach their highest intellectual potential. Most importantly, Catholic schools nurture students’ souls with daily prayer, weekly Mass, and theology classes. Together, these two pillars resulted in 96% of the Class of 2022 moving onto higher education with an earned \$6 million in scholarships to college and universities across the nation. “Our goal is to educate for a lifetime, from here to eternity,” said Ryan.

Additionally, Catholic schools have saved taxpayers more than \$110 million annually. This savings can be attributed to the decreased enrollment in public schools due to the very existence of our schools.

The Diocese of Charleston boasts 32 elementary and high schools across South Carolina. Learn more about Catholic education at www.charlestondiocese.org/schools.

About the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charleston

Founded in 1820, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charleston is comprised of 115 parishes and missions, 32 Catholic schools, more than 350,000 people, and encompasses the state of South Carolina.

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