

## A New Academic Year!

As we experience these “dog days” of summer, we know that a new academic school year is just around the corner. As families, most of you are finishing up your annual summer vacations. Soon you will be returning to the environment of schedules and routines as we transition from summer to the season of fall.

I want to wish all: school administrators, faculty, staff, volunteers, families and students, a grace filled school year. From first-year teachers to children anticipating their first classroom experience of learning and growing as individuals, may God bless and protect you throughout the new school year.

For those of you who have chosen to have the experience of teaching or attending one of our Catholic schools of the Diocese of Stockton, I want to express my appreciation to you for choosing Catholic Education. We are very blessed to have the opportunity to serve the community by way of our Catholic schools. The presence of our schools offer a teaching and learning environment in which we value the freedom to welcome God, faith, the Bible and prayer, moral teaching and discipline onto every campus of our Catholic schools. This ability to integrate academics with faith formation is truly a gift, not only to the Church, but also to the greater community.

- † To our Catholic school presidents, principals, faculties, staffs and benefactors: thank you for your ongoing dedication to Catholic education.
- † To you, the families: God bless you for the sacrifices you are making in order to give your children the experience of attending a Catholic school and growing in the Catholic Faith.
- † To all of the youth attending our elementary and high schools of our diocese: may you come to appreciate the benefit of attending a Catholic school. Remember to allow God to lead you. I pray that each of you come to know his presence throughout all you encounter during your Catholic school experience.

Dear young people, as your Bishop, I want you to know that the Church is here to accompany you on your life journey of experiencing a highly academic and Christ-centered education. From the classroom to the playground; from your studies to the athletic field, including your many extracurricular activities, may you always know the presence of Jesus in the midst of it all. May all that you do find its heart centered in the Gospel of Christ.

Family and friends, this is the “package deal” intended for you and your children. As we say: “it’s a win-win.” Education plus Faith Formation!

Wishing all of you a blessed fall season and a great school year.

In the Peace of Christ,

**Bishop Myron J. Cotta**