



January 26, 2014

Dear Members of the Bishop McHugh Regional School community,

Catholic School's Week gives us an opportunity to pause and consider the wonderful value and need for Catholic education in your area and throughout the Diocese. Each year, each week, each day our schools provide witness to our faith as they educate our children in a supportive atmosphere that encourages them to reach higher and to always do their best.

More than a building, Bishop McHugh Regional School, like all of our schools, brings together parents, parishioners, families and staff in a unified effort to form our students in mind, body and soul preparing them to meet the challenges of life and the world. It's a wonderful learning environment.

This is why I am so concerned that due to low enrollment the school continues to experience financial difficulties.

As Catholics, we all share in the responsibility of sustaining Catholic schools. This begins with your parishes, St. Joseph in Sea Isle City, Resurrection in Marmora, Our Lady of the Angels in Cape May Courthouse, and St. Brendan the Navigator in Avalon, who provide both significant financial and pastoral support for the school. I offer my gratitude to each of the pastors who have embraced the importance of both the school and Catholic education.

This responsibility continues with the Diocese which has also committed once again significant financial support for the school this year and will next year but only if the school reaches its 150 student registration benchmark.

Additionally, the school's administration and faculty agreed to a pay freeze for the current year to help with the school's challenging financial situation. I thank them for their commitment, leadership and sacrifice.

Finally, the responsibility also includes families who choose Bishop McHugh Regional School for their children. We also need your commitment to sustain the school. Now is the time for all of us to come together to make this registration benchmark a reality of 150 students.

To help do this, the parishes have implemented a special tuition transfer grant program to help drive enrollment at the school. Families with students in parish religious education programs will receive a three year grant totaling \$3,000 per student distributed over three years if they enroll their children in Bishop McHugh Regional School.

In consultation with the pastors, we will also move our registration deadline from January 30, 2014, to February 28, 2014. An enrollment of 150 students is essential by this date.

It is with great respect for the accomplishments of Bishop McHugh Regional School that I encourage you to consider it for your children and give them the opportunity to experience the wonderful integration of academic, spiritual and social development the school provides.

To those who have already made that choice, I offer my sincere thanks for the sacrifices that this involves for many of you. It is a commitment of both your financial resources and your time in a world that makes many claims on both. May you and your children be richly blessed for your choice.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Dennis J. Sullivan, D.D.  
Bishop of Camden