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Catholic Schools Week 2016, a Celebration of Quality Education *“Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service”*

National Catholic Schools Week 2016 will be observed in dioceses around the country, January 31-February 6. Throughout the Diocese of Cleveland next week, schools are scheduling special activities and open houses to showcase the important faith-building, academic and societal contributions provided by a Catholic education. This year’s theme is, “Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service.”

“From the classroom we are reminded every day that Catholic schools are a vital part of the Church’s mission to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ and so an important aspect of our own teaching mission,” said Margaret Lyons, Secretary for Education/Superintendent of Schools, Catholic Diocese of Cleveland.

Pope Francis recently reminded Catholic educators at the World Congress held in Rome to know the spiritual and corporal works of mercy and to offer them to students in Catholic schools as practical examples of how to live the Gospel.

Catholic Diocese of Cleveland day school enrollment is 45,919 or fifth nationally overall, a rank that has been maintained since 2009. With the exception of Los Angeles, whose general population is over 11 million and whose Catholic population is growing, the Diocese of Cleveland has out-performed every other top Catholic school system in maintaining Catholic school enrollment.

About 1.9 million students are currently educated in nearly 6,600 Catholic schools around the country. Students receive an education that prepares them for higher education, a competitive work environment, but most importantly, living a Christian life of virtue in a challenging society.

The backbone of Catholic education is the relationship between the parent, the school and the Church – each doing a part to provide an educational environment that keeps Christ at the center of each child’s life within a challenging and nurturing educational setting.

The observance of Catholic Schools Week began in 1974. Schools and parishes around the country will hold activities such as Masses, open houses and potluck gatherings to celebrate the communities they represent. The week also highlights the educational and community successes of Catholic schools around the county. One example is that an estimated 98 percent of students graduate from high school and 86 percent of Catholic school graduates attend college. This percentage has been consistent over the past 20 years.

Learn more about Catholic Diocese of Cleveland Schools at www.dioceseofcleveland.org/schools.

About the Diocese of Cleveland:

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Cleveland was founded on April 23, 1847. Under the leadership of the Most Reverend Richard Lennon, Bishop of Cleveland, it is the twenty-third largest diocese in the United States. The diocese encompasses the counties of Cuyahoga, Summit, Lorain, Lake, Geauga, Medina, Wayne and Ashland. There are more than 692,000 Catholics in the Diocese, and Catholic Charities- Diocese of Cleveland is one of the largest diocesan systems of social services in the world. There are 185 parishes, 114 Catholic schools, 1 pastoral center and 1 mission office within the diocese. The cathedral is the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, located in downtown Cleveland.