



CENTER FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION & FORMATION

SAINT THOMAS SEMINARY - ARCHDIOCESE of HARTFORD

August 21, 2023

Dear Brother Priests,

This year's HOPES (Help Our Parish Educators & Students) Collection is set to take place on September 23rd and 24th and I am writing to ask for your help in promoting the Collection to your parishioners and faith community over the next few weeks.

Not every parish in the Archdiocese has its own school, and the HOPES Collection is the primary way that every parish can support our 26 Catholic elementary schools.

To paraphrase Saint Luke, *"There's something greater here,"* in our Catholic elementary schools. They are communities of Hope - led in Truth by men and women who know their students by name and who build welcoming, close-knit communities where they are valued, loved and supported.

The HOPES Collection is an annual fundraiser that provides vital support to our Catholic elementary schools in the Archdiocese of Hartford, and helps our schools to shape the hearts, minds and souls of the children who come through their doors every day.

Father, your support and promotion of the HOPES Collection will go a long way in helping us sustain Catholic education in our Archdiocese, and I'm asking for your help.

We have developed a promotional toolkit to assist you in promoting the 2023 HOPES Collection to your parish-wide community. **Within the HOPES Collection Promotional Toolkit you will find:**

- Promotional copy for bulletins, announcements and newsletters;
- Social media posts and photos located on the Center's website catholicedaohct.org/catholic-schools/hopes;
- Talking points that you can use in your homily or announcements at Mass to talk about the Hopes Collection;
- A Report Form to return with your donation;
- HOPES Collection Flyer;
- HOPES Collection Postcards;
- The Promotional Toolkit can be found on the HOPES page on our website: catholicedaohct.org/catholic-schools/hopes.

Thank you for all that you do, and for helping us make our Catholic elementary schools inspire educational excellence and transformative lifelong-faith formation.

Should you have any questions regarding the HOPES Collection, please contact Laura McCaffrey, Executive Director for Finance & Technology, at 860-242-5573 or laura.mccaffrey@aohct.org.

Sincerely,

Father Michael Whyte
Vicar for Catholic Education & Formation