

2023 HOPES COLLECTION: HOMILY TALKING POINTS IN SUPPORT OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Pastors, please consider sharing these messages with your parish to promote the HOPES Collection on Sept. 23-24, 2023.

2023 HOPES Collection: Help Our Parish Educators & Students

My brother priests, I am asking that you help support the promotion of the HOPES collection on September 23-24 by “salt and peppering” your homily or announcements with these talking points, which illustrate the importance of Catholic education. Our Catholic schools – academically and spiritually – are where many of these children are introduced to the Catholic Church and our beautiful faith. Please join me in educating our parishioners to the universal mission of the Church: Catholic education. **Thank you!**

- Our Catholic elementary schools are an integral part of our Archdiocese – and our faith. They are communities of Hope led in Truth; often times the first powerful experience of Mass, the sacraments and our lived faith experiences to these young children.
- Not every parish has a Catholic school, but every church and parishioner has a role to play in the universal mission of the Church. The HOPES (Help Our Parish Educators & Students) collection is the primary way that all the parishes of the Archdiocese can support our 26 Catholic elementary schools. **We all benefit from the HOPES Collection.**
- To paraphrase Saint Luke, “There’s something greater here” in our Catholic elementary schools. Our dedicated administrators, faculty and staff know our students by name and build a welcoming, close-knit community around them so the students know they are valued, loved and supported.
- The HOPES collection is an annual fundraiser that provides vital support to our Catholic elementary school teachers in the Archdiocese of Hartford—who help our schools shape the hearts, minds and souls of the students who come through their doors every day.
- Each year - and especially during and after COVID Pandemic – our Catholic elementary school students surpassed all educational challenges with excellence. We did not lose 2 years because of closures or full-time online classes but rather our children entered the new school year on schedule. Our children are among the highest achieving students in Connecticut; they are respected for who they are – a child of God, they are taught to work with one another for the common good, and we teach the WHOLE child – body, mind and spirit. That is Catholic education.
- If you want this Catholic success story to be your child or grandchild’s story, then join us in contributing to the HOPES Collection here at Mass or online via the “QR Code” on the cards available in the back of church.