

Dr. Elinor R. Ford

Dr. Elinor R. Ford has long been a friend, a supporter, a champion and a challenger of those who so valiantly serve and lead the various ministries within Catholic education and parishes.

Dr. Ford received her doctorate from Columbia University, New York. She served as Superintendent of Schools for the Archdiocese of New York. She was the first woman appointed to this system that at the time served about 200 elementary and 80 secondary schools across ten counties of New York State.

Following this she chaired the New York Archdiocesan Council for Religious Education, and established NCEA's first national Catholic parent organization. At the same time she was a full professor in the graduate education department at Fordham University in New York. While there she directed the nonpublic school program for administrators, and founded the doctoral program for church leaders in collaboration with Fordham's Department of Religion and Religious Education. This program attracted students from all over the world. Dr. Ford then became publisher, president and chief executive officer of the William H. Sadlier Publishing Company.

Dr. Ford has written many leadership, educational, mathematics and catechetical articles, books and materials. She has conducted numerous church leadership, teacher, catechist, clergy and parish family programs for various dioceses and groups.

Dr. Ford has also received many honors and honorary degrees. In 1995 she was honored by the Canadian Catholic School Trustees Association for her contributions to and support of Canadian Catholic education. In 1996 she was given the Monsignor John Meyer Award by the National Catholic Educational Association. In 1997 Dr. Ford was named by Today's Catholic Teacher as one of the 25 most influential people in Catholic education in the past 25 years. In 2003 Fordham University, New York, awarded her its Catholic Education Executive Leadership award.

Dr. Ford is a renowned international speaker. She has spoken in almost all the dioceses of the United States, and at various educational, catechetical, stewardship and health conventions in the United States, Canada and Europe.

In addition to offering graduate leadership, educational and catechetical courses at different Catholic universities, Dr. Ford is presently a consultant and speaker for national and international catechetical, educational, parish, stewardship, clergy and health care groups.

