



The Roman Catholic
Diocese of Phoenix

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OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Fall 2011

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Catholic School System of the Diocese of Phoenix is one of the greatest gifts that we offer to the People of God, by assisting parents in their primary responsibility to transmit the fullness of the faith to their children. In the midst of all that can distract or mislead our youth from having a proper understanding of the faith, while at the same time promoting the development of their God given talents, Catholic schools foster the moral and intellectual growth of our children.

The Catholic Schools Office has worked diligently to revise the Diocesan Handbook of Policies, Procedures and Norms for Catholic Schools. This important tool will serve well as a resource to all of the schools of the Diocese, as they develop their own mission statements, philosophy and handbook of policies and regulations. The goal of the Diocesan Schools Office is to provide a resource that will assist every school of the Diocese to develop materials that are consistent throughout the Diocese, but will also allow local pastors, principals and school boards to articulate local policies that respond appropriately to their own needs.

Parents who are considering a Catholic education for their children need to know what they can expect from our Catholic schools and what will be expected from them and their children. Candidates for positions as principals and teachers within our school system also need to understand our philosophy and vision.

I believe that this 2011 revision of the Diocesan Handbook will serve our school administrators and the parents of our children well. I am grateful for the work of all those who have contributed to the process that has led to this update of the handbook. With the promulgation of this letter, I formally approve this new edition of the Diocesan Handbook along with any accompanying and subsequent regulations developed by the Catholic Schools Office.

Any future changes in policy will become effective with my approval, upon the recommendation of the Catholic Schools Office. I am confident that all who are responsible for the administration of our Catholic Schools will act in a positive manner to implement the policies and regulations that are found in the Diocesan Handbook.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Thomas J. Olmsted
Bishop of Phoenix