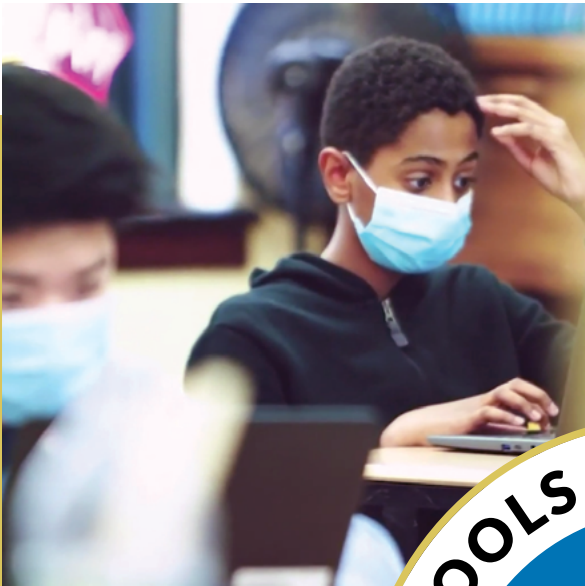


2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Office of the Superintendent ~
Catholic School Support Services

Diocese of Brooklyn



FOUNDATION *for* LIFE



Letter from Bishop DiMarzio



November 2021

During the month of November, as we come to the end of the *Year of Renewal*, we are provided with a tangible reminder of the blessings in our lives through the celebration of Thanksgiving. This time of year, in its feelings of abundance and blessings, is an apt time for my own reflection as the close of my administration of the Diocese of Brooklyn. After eighteen years serving faithful of Brooklyn and Queens, my retirement has been accepted by our Holy Father, Pope Francis.

The past eighteen years have been a true blessing in my episcopal ministry. During this years, I have met, worked with, and developed lasting relationships with the priests, deacons, religious and lay faithful of the Diocese of Brooklyn. Many Bishops do not have the opportunity to be a part of the growth of a Diocese for such a long period of time, and feel fortunate to watch the development of our parishes, Catholic Academies, and Parish Schools. The years have held their own challenges, especially as we consider the past twenty months of the pandemic, however, as we look back on our *Year of Renewal* what has remained steadfast is the fortitude of the individuals who are the cornerstone of the Diocese in Brooklyn and Queens.

I extend my sincere gratitude to the priests of the Diocese who choose each day to commit their service to the Lord. You are models of the faith to your parishioners as well as to other ordained individuals, including myself. For many, especially those pastors and clergy who participate in Academy Boards, you have accepted additional roles willingly and without hesitation. Your dedication to the preservation and promulgation of the faith through our

parishes and schools is tremendous. Through the *Year of Renewal*, we have seen faith grow in new ways and amidst the challenges of COVID-19. I applaud the work of all of you who have embraced virtual outreach and adjusting to ever-changing safety protocols. Your efforts to sustain our sanctuaries and provide a space for the growth of faith have been extraordinary.

Our faith community is continuing to expand even as the Diocese has face challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic. I look at our Catholic Academy and Parish School communities with a sense of great hope. The students and families that comprise these school communities are a true light during a dark time. For many families, our Catholic Academies and Parish Schools were a source of security in an extremely uncertain time. Enrollment has increased throughout Brooklyn and Queens this year with an influx of new students from community and public schools. New families have immediately noticed the “Catholic School difference” and are choosing to remain a part of our nurturing, faith filled communities. When I visit the schools, both virtually and in-person, I am filled with joy in seeing the authentic display of faith from our students. I believe that our children will be our future in their ability to be a light to others and saints in the making. They are true examples of Christ. It is through the sacrifice and dedication of their families in making the choice for Catholic education that they are fulfilling their greatest potential in knowing and loving Christ.

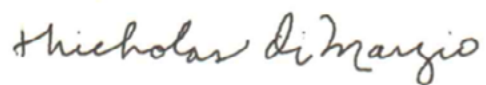
Over eighteen years within the Diocese of Brooklyn, I have been fortunate to spend a significant amount of time in our classrooms and schools. Within each visit or school update, I am struck by the dedicated individuals who work tirelessly to bring faith-filled education to life. The teachers and principals that lead our schools and classrooms are living examples of Christ. As Jesus is our Shepherd, so too are our teachers and principals. Each day, they are tasked with the immense responsibility of cultivating the faith in our children. This is both a huge responsibility and a gift, and I am eternally thankful for their continued “yes” to support and fulfilling the mission of Catholic education. Our principals and staff have continued to focus on strengthening faith-based education through vibrant religious instruction. The emphasis on faith in our *Year of Renewal* has remained strong despite the many challenges that are being faced daily with COVID-19. We are consistently focusing on the core of our mission; helping students grow in their love and knowledge of Christ.

As I reflect on my time in the Diocese, I am reminded of 2 Corinthians, “As we look not to what is seen but to what is unseen; for what is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal.” Our time in various life phases is transitory, as is the work that we may do during these times yet the core of our efforts, the building of the faith, is an eternal entity. The work that has been done within the Diocese has been for the good of others but most importantly, for the glory of God. When we fulfill the mission of Catholic education, share the faith in our parishes, strengthen outreach opportunities, we are working in a transitory fashion yet, the outcome of these initiatives is eternal in their deepening of relationships with God.

I am honored to have served as the Seventh Bishop of Brooklyn in a diocese that has continuously built a foundation of faith in parishes, Catholic Academies, and Parish Schools of Brooklyn and Queens. This emphasis on our eternal relationship with God can never be altered or forgotten. I pray that my time has supported this growth and look forward to fulfilling God’s plans for me in my years of retirement.

Asking the Lord to extend His choicest blessings upon each of you, and with every best wish, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

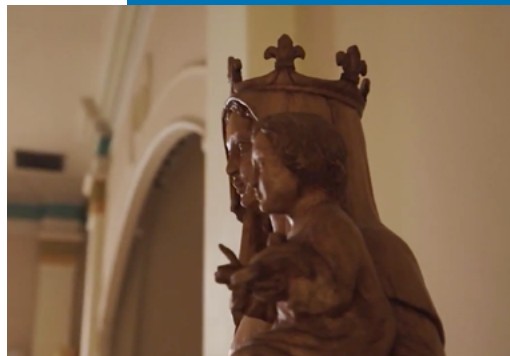


Most Reverend Nicholas DiMarzio, Ph.D., D.D.

Apostolic Administrator

Diocese of Brooklyn





Manifesting Catholic Culture

The promulgation of the faith through parishes and schools is a critical part of the mission of Catholic Education. Through the *Year of Renewal*, we have seen faith grow in new ways and amidst the challenges of COVID-19.

Catholic Community

- Strengthened partnership & collaboration with the Office of Faith Formation and Evangelization
- Pastoral Assistance Plans Engaged the Pastors Aligned to the Academies in actions including visits to classes to teach religion, prayer services, class Masses and more:
 - > Sharing with the parish community the value of Catholic education in connection with the future of the Church
 - > Inclusion of Pastors in Professional Development
 - > Engagement to develop safe events that promote school and parish community connections

Enhanced Curriculum, Content and Standards

- The Catholic Social Justice Framework, based USCCB themes, was implemented to address current needs
- Enhanced and updated standards for religious instruction
- Set an enhanced Diocesan standard for weekly hours allocated for religion instruction by grade level

Support for Faculty and Staff

- Professional Development sessions, (known as St. John Neumann Days), took place virtually and focused on Catholic Identity, Mission and Ministry
- Wednesday Wellness support for Teachers, Principals, Parents and Students focused on Spiritual Renewal, Emotional Support and Educational Support
- Teachers received additional training to implement enhanced religion standards and social justice frameworks through:
 - > Observations of religious instruction on par with the observations used for all curriculum
 - > Coaching of teachers in planning religion lessons and integrating religion into other subject areas
 - > Spiritual development through Adult Catechesis Programs





Promoting & Retaining Enrollment

By the numbers



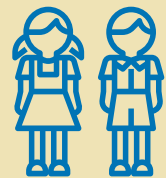
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Catholic Academies
and Parish Schools



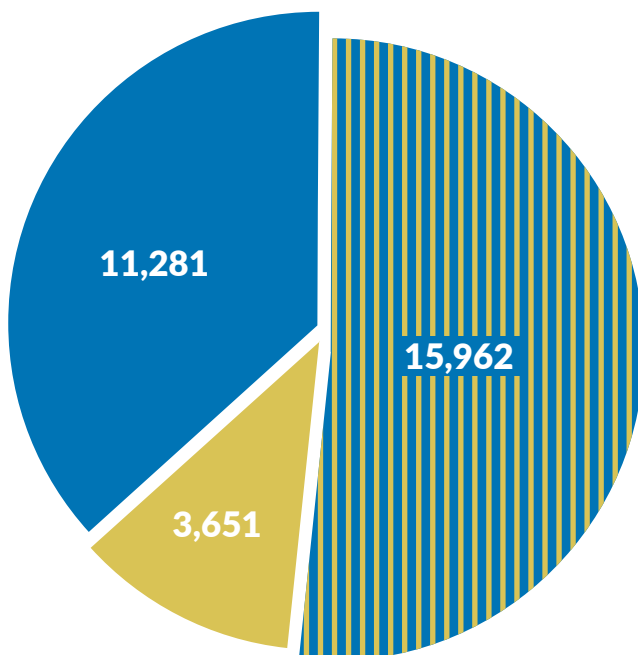
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High
Schools



30,894

Students in
Pre-K to 12th grade



Catholic Education in the
Diocese of Brooklyn

30,894

total Enrollments for 2021



Kindergarten to 8th Grade



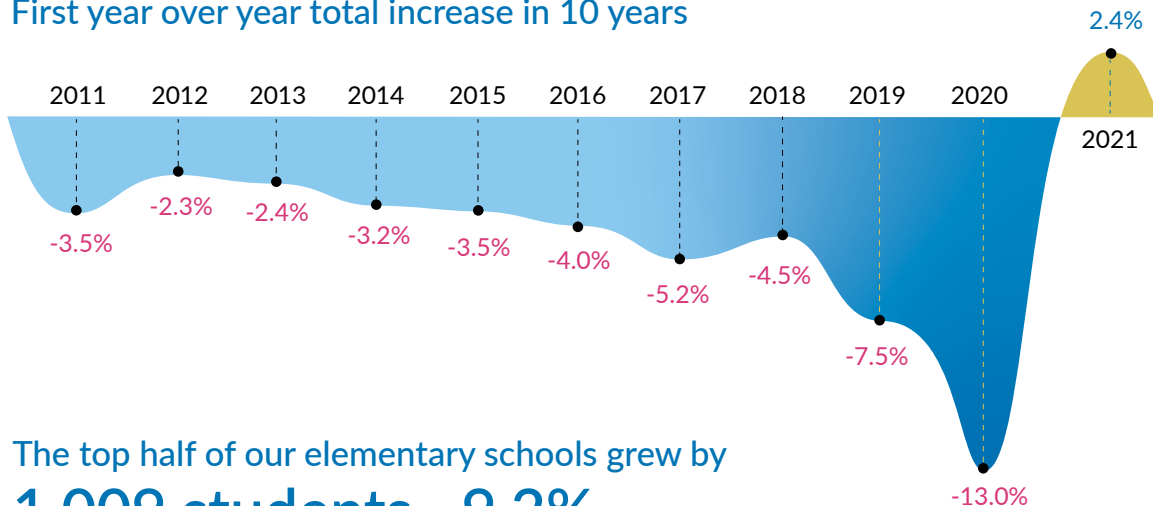
High School



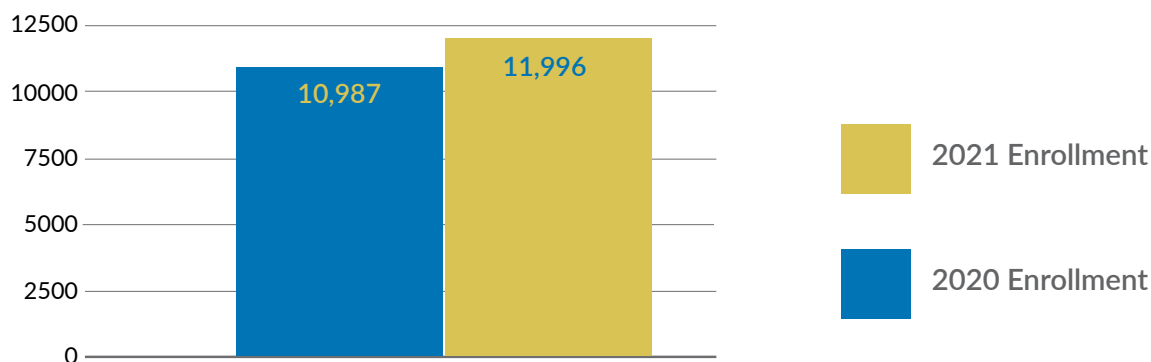
Pre-K Programs

Enrollment initiatives and successes

Total Pre-K to 8 Enrollment increased **2.4%** from 2020 to 2021
First year over year total increase in 10 years



The top half of our elementary schools grew by
1,009 students or **9.2%**





Futures in Education
FOR BROOKLYN AND QUEENS
Changing Lives Through The Gift Of Education

Over **\$7 million** awarded to
nearly **5,000 students**
in 2020-21 school year tuition
assistance.

Promoting & Retaining Enrollment



Our efforts to promote Catholic Education, recruit new families, and retain the population included the following accomplishments in 2021.

Enrollment Management Field Representative Team

The Office of Enrollment Management successfully added two new professionals to support the Catholic Academy and Parish Schools. The Enrollment Management Field Representatives offer direct and focused connection to recruiting best practices, marketing resources including DeSales Media services, and collaborative events such as:

- **Webinars** and training on topics of:
 - > Developing a Parent Ambassador Program
 - > Delivering Excellent Customer Service
 - > The Inquiry to Enrollment Journey
- **Virtual Enrollment Cohort Support**
Small group sessions with staff from multiple school locations met with industry experts and the Enrollment Management Field Representatives for guidance on:
 - > Retaining Current Students
 - > Early Childhood Recruiting Support
 - > Digital Marketing Techniques
 - > A Year in review – planning to repeat successes!



- **Webisodes**
Short videos designed for web viewing by prospective families. Support in development by DeSales Media. Topics ranging from:
 - > Graduation and heading to High School – a celebration of growth
 - [A Partnership of Elementary to High School](#)
 - [Catholic School Graduation 2021](#)
 - > Fine Arts & Performing Arts – highlighting successful art programs, and partnership
 - [A Look Inside Our Performing & Fine Arts](#)
 - > Pastor, Board and School Relationships for student success
 - [Celebrating Divine Wisdom CA](#)
 - [Celebrating St Michael CA](#)
 - > Religious Education Programs,
 - [Celebrating St Bernard CA](#)
 - > Pastor and School Relationship
 - [Celebrating St Athanasius CA](#)
 - [Celebrating Ss Joachim & Anne](#)



Watch all these webisodes and more at our YouTube Channel: [Catholic Schools BQ](#)

Promoting & Retaining Enrollment



Annual Summit for Catholic Education

This year the [Summit went online](#) and over 1,000 people joined to see videos celebrating our schools success' and to hear a spirited discussion from the leadership panel.

Hispanic and Haitian student recruitment

A series of focused working groups and engagement sessions took place to identify local staff and projects to better support potentially underserved communities.

Website

The [Catholic Schools of Brooklyn and Queens website](#) was redesigned to lighten and update the look, provide easier front-page access for prospective parents to request information, and to connect with news and social media.

FACTS SIS

A database system conversion to FACTS for our Student Information System (SIS) was completed.

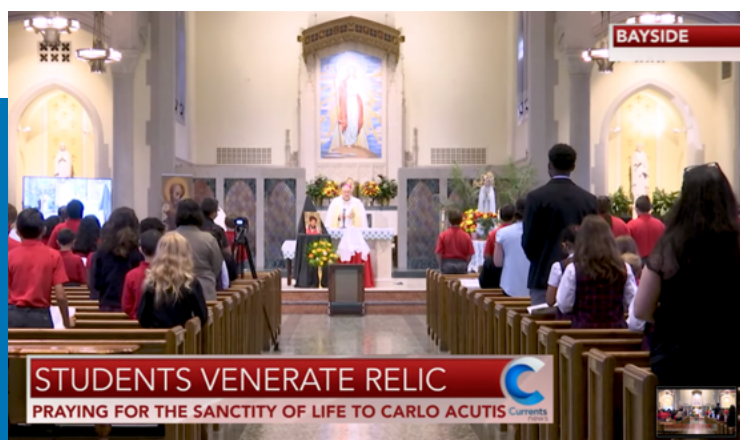
This conversion allows parents and staff to access student records, in a unified system with tuition management and grant & aid administration. (*FACTS serves more than three million students and families at over 11,500 schools. FACTS Tuition and Grant & Aid have been used by the schools in the Diocese of Brooklyn for many years. Converting to the SIS completes an initiative to have a 'single system' for student data and record keeping)



Positive Press

Catholic Education made a lot of news in 2021:

- [Diocese of Brooklyn Students Thank and Bid Farewell to Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio Ahead of Retirement - NET TV \(netny.tv\)](#)
- [DOE Attendance Records Remain a Mystery as Parents, Elected Officials Make a Push for Transparency - NET TV \(netny.tv\)](#)
- [Fox5: Diocese of Brooklyn offering only remote learning option in NYC - YouTube](#)
- [St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Online Academy Provides Remote Option for Students and Families - NET TV \(netny.tv\)](#)
- [Sacred Heart Students Venerate Relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis and Pray for Life at Rosary Rally - NET TV \(netny.tv\)](#)
- [Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy students study Braille while learning about life of Helen Keller \(news12.com\)](#)
- [Escuelas católicas no más clases remotas próximo año escolar \(ny1noticias.com\)](#)
- [Is cursive dead? Not for this Catholic school 5th grader - America Magazine](#)



Click each link above to view the Catholic education news story

Promoting & Retaining Enrollment



**ST. THOMAS
AQUINAS** • CATHOLIC
ONLINE
ACADEMY
K-8 Catholic Education Online



St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Online Academy

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Online Academy is offering a K-8 curriculum, including religion, with live and asynchronous instruction. See what makes it so special:

- The 'Distance Learning Program' designed to support our local schools with online services in 2020, became a standalone academy in 2021.
- [St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Online Academy](#) became the only fully online option for NYC students in 2021 as the many families continued to want and need an online Catholic school option.
- Over 150 students joined the new academy in 2021 expanding our reach to include students from Maryland, Texas, New Jersey and our local communities.

[Fox5: Diocese of Brooklyn offering only remote learning option in NYC - YouTube](#)



Enhancing Academic Excellence

Site-based personalized professional development and coaching

- Supporting teachers by gaining a clearer understanding of academic performance and growth data. Through professional development partners, Generation Ready, Educate, and i-Ready/Curriculum Associates, teachers worked with coaches on using data to inform instructional planning, as well as identifying best practices to differentiate instruction, to support and plan for an academically diverse student population.

 **i-Ready Assessment**

 **GENERATION READY**

 **educate^{llc}**
Innovation & Transformation Coaching

Investment in the i-Ready benchmark system

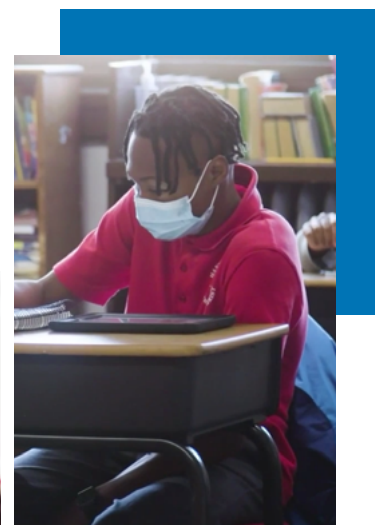
- A state-of-the-art assessment tool for all elementary school students. Three times a year, the i-Ready diagnostic gives teachers a picture of each student's proficiency and growth in reading and math and offers targeted, personalized practice and instruction. Catholic Academies and Parish Schools are in the second year of implementation of the i-Ready diagnostic, which began in September 2020.

A culture of continuous improvement

- Through the collaboration with Cognia and the Catholic School Accreditation Association, all Catholic Academies and Parish Schools are developing and systematically working toward continuous improvement goals, focused through the rigorous Cognia school improvement process. Additionally, CSAA requires the completion of a Catholic Identity self-assessment instrument, to direct the school community through the process of comprehensive self-evaluation in the areas of Mission and Catholic Identity. By the close of the 2021-2022 school year, all Catholic elementary schools will have completed their preliminary Cognia engagement accreditation review process.



cognia™



A Prayer of Thanks



Dear Lord,

*We ask you to bless and protect our principals, teachers, staff,
and volunteers who make our schools a vibrant community of
academic success and faith development.*

*Bless our school team with wisdom, integrity, a sense of humor,
patience, and the physical and mental energy equal to their tasks.
Bless them with strong support from parents and the community.*

*Reward our school team by allowing them to see the fruits of their
labor displayed in the success of their students and the joy of seeing
their school become a central part of the greater community,
a place that has a family feel.*

*May our school team accept our prayer as an expression of our
gratitude for their continued efforts and dedication making our
schools a place where our students are prepared for the future
with a sound foundation for life.*

Amen



CatholicSchoolsBQ.org