



## Catholic Schools Education Summit 2008

**Sr. Helen Jean Kormelink, O.S.B.**  
*Superintendent of Catholic Schools, Joliet*

On Saturday, April 19th, approximately 500 people from across the Joliet Diocese participated in an **Education Summit** at Joliet Catholic Academy. Many challenges facing Catholic schools across the diocese were surfaced and need to be addressed.

The Catholic Schools Office and the Diocese of Joliet have retained the services of Meitler Consultants to *develop a strategic plan to strengthen and revitalize Catholic schools in the diocese and to ensure their viability and effectiveness in the future.*



*Education Summit open forum April 2008*

The timeline for the strategic planning process will likely extend through January 2010 with the implementation of the plan's initiatives occurring in subsequent years.

This communiqué, and others that will follow throughout the year, are intended in part to keep you apprised of the

progress of the strategic planning process. It is also

a vehicle for us to share with you

the Good News in Catholic education. Let us pray that our efforts will bring a renewed vitality to our schools as we seek to educate the next generation of Catholic children.

*The Diocese of Joliet schools educated 23,593 students during the 2007-2008 school year.*

- 56** Catholic Elementary Schools
- 8** Catholic High Schools
- 6** Catholic Early Childhood Centers

*“Education is integral to the mission of the Church to proclaim the Good News. First and foremost every Catholic educational institution is a place to encounter the living God who in Jesus Christ reveals his transforming love and truth (cf. *Spe Salvi*, 4). This relationship elicits a desire to grow in the knowledge and understanding of Christ and his teaching. In this way those who meet him are drawn by the very power of the Gospel to lead a new life characterized by all that is beautiful, good, and true; a life of Christian witness nurtured and strengthened within the community of our Lord’s disciples, the Church.”*

**Pope Benedict XVI**  
*The Catholic University of America, April 17, 2008*



*“We must respond to challenging times with faith, vision, and the will to succeed because the Catholic school’s mission is vital to the future of our young people, our nation, and most especially our Church.”*

*Unites States Conference of Catholic Bishops  
Renewing Our Commitment to Catholic Elementary & Secondary Schools in the Third Millennium*



**“They were astonished at his teaching.” - Matthew 7:28**

*From the desk of Most Rev. J. Peter Sartain D.D., Bishop of Joliet*

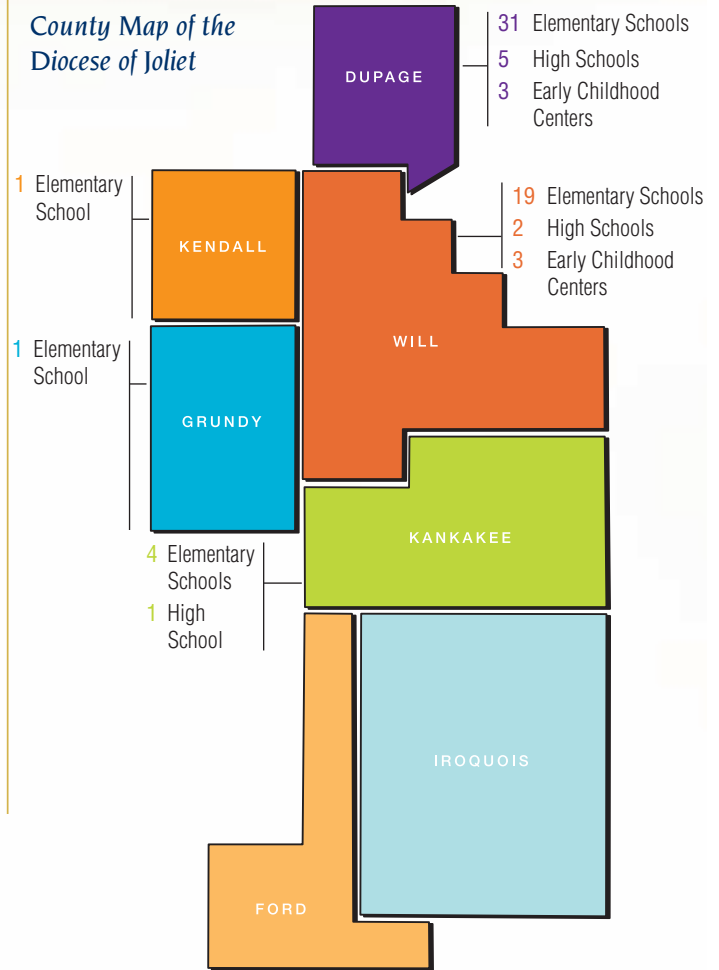
Schools that are truly Catholic not only teach what Jesus taught, they evangelize. They lead students to an intimate and lifelong relationship with Jesus in discipleship and friendship.

Sacred Scripture emphasizes Jesus’ role as Teacher. Saint John reminds us of Jesus’ words at the Last Supper, “If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another’s feet” [John 13:13-14]. This is the teaching that we proclaim in our churches, teach in our schools and model with our lives.

Catholic schools have served the youth of the area which comprises the Diocese of Joliet for more than a hundred years. We are proud of our history and the commitment of so many lay and religious men and women who dedicated their lives in the past. We are proud and grateful to those who continue in the present to invest their talent and energies in the future of youth, the Church and society.

*We have a wonderful opportunity to give renewed and enthusiastic momentum to Catholic education in our diocese.* Please pray with us as we advance even more the progress of our Catholic schools. Thank you and God bless you!

**County Map of the Diocese of Joliet**



**Catholic Education Foundation**

**“We are convinced that Catholic schools continue to be ‘the most effective means available to the Church for the education of children and young people, who are the future of the Church.’**

*(To Teach as Jesus Did, 118) Renewing Our Commitment to Catholic Elementary & Secondary Schools in the Third Millennium*

The Diocese of Joliet Catholic Education Foundation is committed to the long term financial strength and viability of Catholic education in the Diocese. The Foundation raises and disburses funds providing financial assistance for Catholic education within the diocese. During the 2006-2007 fiscal year, the Foundation disbursed funds in the form of scholarships, tuition assistance, and assistance to school programs totaling \$859,010. The need for financial assistance was greater than the funds available. Please consider contributing to the Catholic Education Foundation. Your gift will allow us to fill the gap between the needs and available funds.

Contact the Education Foundation at 815.834.4033 or visit us at our website at <http://www.dioceseofjoliet.org/edfoundation>

