



Impact Report 2023 Worthy of His Calling

Dear Friends of Catholic Education,

As we celebrate the 2023 Catholic Schools Week, we reflect on the immense gift we are given by God through our Catholic schools.

Our Diocese of Victoria Catholic schools give children a way to see Him in unique and special ways. Whether we are experiencing Him in the Eucharist, relying on His divine providence as we see enrollment numbers climb, or simply seeing Christ through the smile of a friend, we know God is with us. Catholic school education allows children to become adults that see life through a different lens.

As our diocese focuses on the National Eucharistic Revival, we are also grateful for the gift of His Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ. I am so grateful that our school children are blessed with opportunities to encounter Jesus in the Eucharist, and I am excited to see what new and beautiful ways we will be introduced through the Revival. We pray for an increase in devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and a full understanding of the gift of the Real Presence. Our Catholic school children will be on the frontlines of extending this devotion and love to their friends and family as we plan and promote Eucharistic activities for our school communities.

We look forward to continued success over the coming years and know that—with God's help—we will be able to continue our work of bringing the Gospel message of our Lord to children throughout this diocese.

May God bless you and your families.

Let's keep each other in prayer,

+The Most Reverend Brendan J. Cahill, S.T.D.

Diocese of Victoria Catholic Schools at a Glance

There are 15 Catholic schools in the Diocese of Victoria serving children in PreK through 12th grade. Throughout our ten-county region, over 2,700 students received the benefits of a Catholic education in the last year. All schools are accredited by the **Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops – Education Department** and use the **National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools** to further incorporate our mission of faith, service, and love.

- ♥ 100% of our schools participate in either weekly or daily liturgy services
- ♥ 12,000+ service hours are conducted each year



- ♥ 209 students with a diagnosed disability from a local education agency
- ♥ 17:1 average student to teacher ratio

- ♥ 315 professional staff, including 16 religious
- ♥ 74% of professional staff is Catholic



- ♥ 100% of high school graduates enter into a post-high school education or military program
- ♥ AP and dual credit courses offered at all high schools



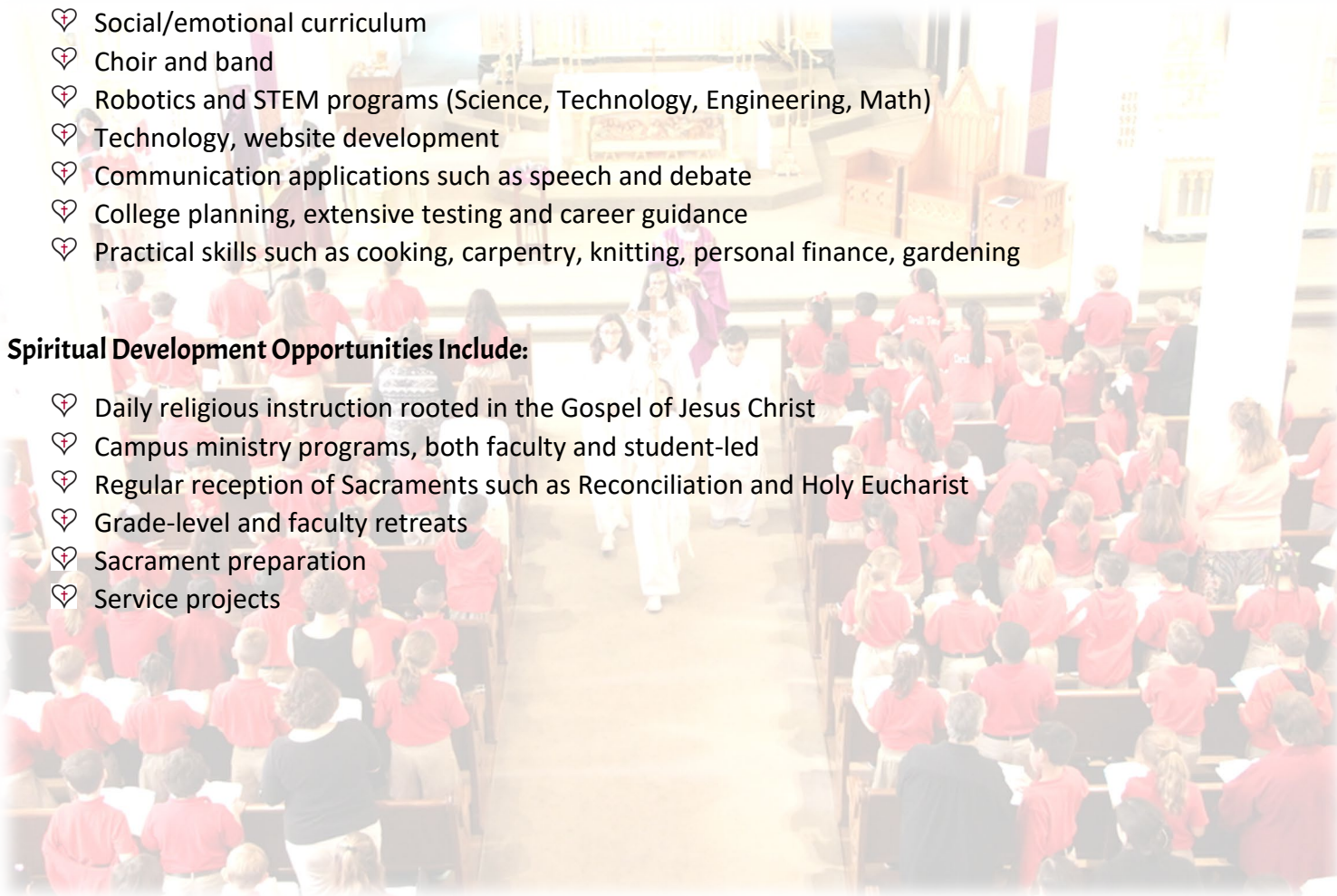
Diocese of Victoria Catholic School students have many opportunities to discover and develop their God-given talents through a wide variety of extracurricular and enrichment offerings. Each year, our schools add programs and activities based on student interests and needs. Below are just SOME of the great programs and offerings of our Catholic schools.

Academic and Enrichment Opportunities Include:

- ♥ Spanish and other foreign language programs
- ♥ Social/emotional curriculum
- ♥ Choir and band
- ♥ Robotics and STEM programs (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math)
- ♥ Technology, website development
- ♥ Communication applications such as speech and debate
- ♥ College planning, extensive testing and career guidance
- ♥ Practical skills such as cooking, carpentry, knitting, personal finance, gardening

Spiritual Development Opportunities Include:

- ♥ Daily religious instruction rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ
- ♥ Campus ministry programs, both faculty and student-led
- ♥ Regular reception of Sacraments such as Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist
- ♥ Grade-level and faculty retreats
- ♥ Sacrament preparation
- ♥ Service projects



Diocese of Victoria Catholic Schools: News Makers

Geralyn Klimitcheck from Sacred Heart is named High School Teacher of the Year!



The Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops Education Department (TCCB ED) named **Geralyn Klimitcheck** High School Teacher of the Year. This award is selected from all Catholic schools across the state of Texas. Mrs. Klimitcheck has taught 7th through 12th grades sciences at **Sacred Heart Catholic School in Hallettsville** over the past 40 years. According to Principal Kevin Haas, "She is a wonderful example of a true Christian. She always ties the Catholic faith into her daily lessons, while providing examples and reasoning of why and how faith ties into science and God's plans."



♥ On September 29, 2022 the **St. Joseph High School in Victoria's** senior class participated in their annual Senior Day of Service. All seniors, along with several parent volunteers who volunteered their boats for the day, worked with the San Antonio Bay Partnership to participate in a Shoreline Clean-Up in the Port O'Connor area. Not only were the shorelines cleaner at the end of the day, but the students now have an increased awareness about preventing marine litter in our bays.

♥ During Vocations Week 2022, the students at **Holy Cross Catholic School in Bay City** passed the 'Vocational Cross' to every class over a 2-month period. Father Stephen went from room to room to share about his priestly vocation. The school also hosted professionals from various occupations such as chef, undercover police officer, fire fighter, and doctor. The PreK-3 students dressed up as different community helpers and learned all the ways God's children can serve in their communities.

♥ **Our Lady of Victory Catholic School in Victoria** is growing! They have recently added new shade covers in places all around campus and remodeled and renovated their PreK3 playground. The school also recently installed a panic alert system, or silent alarm, to keep kids and staff members safe and secure. In late 2022, Mr. Matias and his staff were featured in the Victoria Advocate and NewsCenter 25 in Victoria for their work to decrease response time for emergencies on their campus.

♥ **Nazareth Academy Catholic School in Victoria** began a new campus ministry program called "Ignite" which takes inspiration from St. Catherine of Siena. The group gathers to pray, celebrate their love for Jesus, and serve their school and community with various projects. "Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire."

♥ **St. Rose of Lima Catholic School in Schulenburg** had three staff members recognized as 2022 Reader's Choice Award Best of Fayette County. Jeannie Mican, Kacy McBride, and Rosanne Gallia were awarded by the Fayette County Record in August 2022. Congratulations ladies!

♥ **St. Michael's Catholic School in Cuero** turned 145 years old and was honored by a proclamation by Cuero mayor, Sara Post-Meyer. Mayor Meyer designated the January 31 thru February 4, 2022 as Catholic Schools Week in Cuero, Texas!

♥ **Shiner Catholic School** had SIX alumni attend the SEEK conference in St. Louis in early 2023. As an event centered on the crux of the Gospel, SEEK features prayer, adoration, Scripture and the sacraments. Having our former Catholic school students express their faith with young people around the U.S. calls to mind the strength of a faith handed down. Well done, Shiner Catholic!

Office of Catholic Schools Events

Catholic School Seminar 2022

The annual Catholic School Seminar received a little bit of a facelift with added opportunities for prayer and collaboration concerning spirituality and self-care.



On August 8, 2022, the Office of Catholic Schools—in conjunction with the newly-formed Diocese of Victoria Vocations Team—hosted its first-ever retreat complete with celebration of the Holy Mass and Adoration and Benediction. Bishop Brendan Cahill con-celebrated the Mass with Fathers Kirby Hlavaty, Dalton Ervin, and Kristopher Fuchs, Diocese of Victoria Vocations Director. Seminarists for the diocese were also there serving and assisting the Bishop with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. The intentionality of the reimagined seminar wasn't lost on the more than 300 educators from across our diocese who were ready to start the new school year with a new purpose and fervor. Father Jacob Koether led more than 300 educators in a Lectio Divina exercise focusing on dependence on God and His promises.



Bishop Brendan Cahill leads the DoV school staffs in Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory in Victoria.

F.I.R.S.T.-Class Education Awards 2022

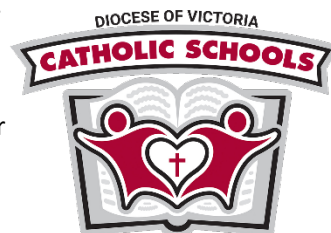


The Office of Catholic Schools recently reimagined the Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner to include outstanding teachers from our schools. The newly-coined "F.I.R.S.T. Class Education Awards" received overwhelmingly positive reviews for its programming and presentation. The recipients pictured with Bishop Brendan Cahill are: Amy Barrera, Geralyn Klimitchek and Amy Alegria.

The Hause Venue in Downtown Victoria opened its doors in 1893 as the Hauschild Opera House. It has now become a beautiful event venue with all the trappings fit for honoring our deserving and dedicated teachers as well as our distinguished alumni. The change in venue was only part of the excitement of a reimagination.

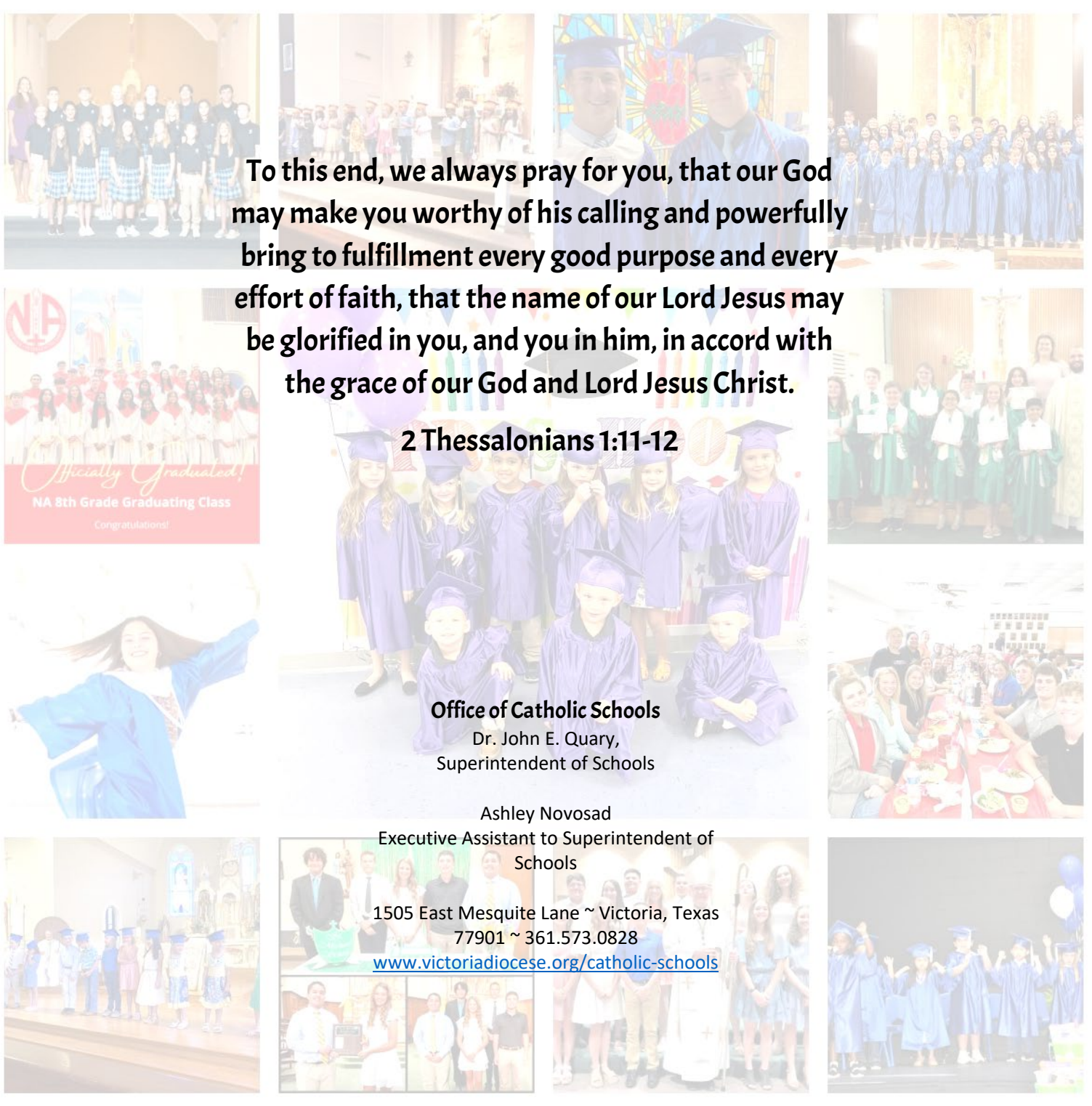
The OCS solicited nominations for its first-ever teacher awards by asking teachers and staff members at our schools to select co-workers who emulated the tenets of Faith, Integrity, Respect, Scholarship, and Tradition (hence, F.I.R.S.T.-Class). The nominations came pouring in, but only three would be named: Amy Alegria (Nazareth Academy) became our first Elementary School Teacher of the Year, Amy Barrera (St. Joseph, Yoakum) became our first Junior High Teacher of the Year, and Geralyn Klimitchek (Sacred Heart) became our first High School Teacher of the Year.

The recipients were touched and inspired by their honor. They each humbly accepted their award, and each pointed the credit to someone or something else. Amy Barrera gives all the glory to God and she points her students toward Him. "Getting my own children and my students into Harvard would be cool... but getting them into Heaven is my goal." Thank you to Mrs. Barrera and all the teachers in our Catholic schools. You are all teaching the minds and touching the lives of our children every day.



FIRST-Class
Education Awards

Faith + Integrity + Respect + Scholarship + Tradition



To this end, we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and powerfully bring to fulfillment every good purpose and every effort of faith, that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, in accord with the grace of our God and Lord Jesus Christ.

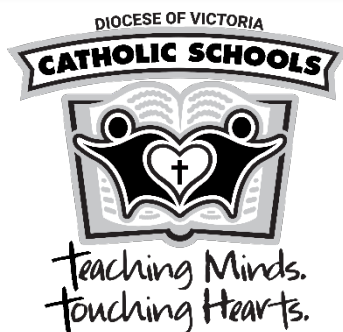
2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

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The mission of the Office of Catholic Schools is to provide the Catholic schools of the Diocese of Victoria in Texas with the vision and service necessary to renew all things in Christ by teaching minds and touching hearts.

ALL SCHOOLS ENROLLING NOW!
Hurry! Spaces are limited!
Please visit websites for tuition and
waitlist information.



Nazareth Academy Catholic School in Victoria, PreK3 thru 8th grade, Established 1867 <https://nazarethacademy.org/>

St. Joseph High School in Victoria, 9th thru 12th grade, Established 1868 <http://www.stjflyers.com/>

St. Michael Catholic School in Cuero, PreK3 thru 6th grade, Established 1877 <https://stmschoolcuero.org/>

Sacred Heart Catholic School in Hallettsville, PreK3 thru 12th grade, Established 1882 <https://www.shschool.org/>

St. Rose of Lima Catholic School in Schulenburg, PreK3 thru 8th, Established 1889 <https://strosecardinals.org/>

St. Michael Catholic School in Weimar, PreK3 thru 8th, Established 1890 <https://stmichaelswords.org/>

St. Joseph Catholic School in Yoakum, PreK3 thru 8th grade, Established 1891 <https://stjccatholicsschool.com/>

St. Ludmila Academy in Shiner, PreK3 thru 12th grade, Established 1897 <https://shinercatholicsschool.org/>

Holy Cross Catholic School in Bay City, PreK3 thru 5th grade, Established 1940 <https://bcholycrossschool.org/>

St. Philip Catholic School in El Campo, PreK3 thru 8th grade, Established 1949 <https://stphilipschool.org/>

St. Anthony Catholic School in Columbus, PreK3 thru 8th grade, Established 1955 <http://www.stanthonycolumbus.net/>

Our Lady of Victory Catholic School in Victoria, PreK3 thru 8th grade, Established 1957 <http://ourladyvictory.org/>

St. Paul High School in Shiner, 9th thru 12th grade, Established 1963 <https://shinercatholicsschool.org/>

Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic School in Port Lavaca, PreK4 thru 8th grade, Established 1996 <https://olgmariners.org/>

