



DIOCESE OF WINONA - ROCHESTER

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

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STATEMENT REGARDING THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

June 7, 2020

As the Bishop of the Diocese of Winona-Rochester, I, along with the Office of Catholic Schools, would like to extend a huge thank you to Catholic school administrators, teachers, staff members, parents and families. The past few months have proven to be challenging, as we navigate through the changes created by COVID-19.

Today, we have the joy of announcing that our Catholic schools in the Diocese of Winona-Rochester will reopen their school buildings for the 2020-2021 school year. Our schools serve as a source of hope, excellence, rigor, and faith, rooted in Gospel values. Parents can depend on our Catholic schools to welcome their children into our buildings and continue to provide a safe and Christ-centered education.

On Monday, a Catholic schools task force, comprised of school administrators, will begin the challenge of writing guidelines and procedures for students and teachers to safely return to school. We are confident that we can meet the guidance of the CDC and the state and county health departments as well as the safety protocols and best practices that will be required during this pandemic.

As our Catholic schools continue to be foundational to the mission of the Church, we will continue to maintain our commitment to excellence in education.

We are grateful to all of our teachers and parents in the diocese, who persevered in the teachings of our faith this spring. You remain in our thoughts and prayers throughout this summer break. Please continue your prayers as we journey through this time of the pandemic with faith, hope and love. Blessed are you!

Sincerely in Christ,

+ *John M. Quinn*

Most Rev. John M. Quinn
Bishop of Winona-Rochester