



OFFICE of the ARCHBISHOP

## Archdiocese of Louisville

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August, 2014

Dear Parents:

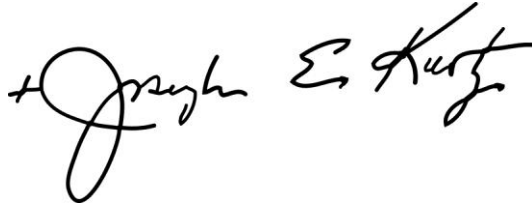
May God bless you! In his apostolic exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium*, Pope Francis reminds us, “The word of God constantly challenges those who believe in Him to ‘go forth.’” The refrain of our Holy Father’s to go forth and proclaim the good news of salvation is at the heart of our mission of Catholic education.

Over the last couple of years, the Archdiocese has embarked on a planning process for Catholic schools, which will introduce initiatives to invite others to experience the wonderful gift of Catholic school education. We are challenging ourselves, as our Holy Father challenges us, to go forth by reaching out even more to those most in need. We stand on the shoulders of generations of Catholics who sacrificed to build our wonderful Catholic schools, and as we give thanks for this legacy, we are reminded of the words in the Gospel according to St. Luke: “Much will be required of the person entrusted with much...” I am thankful for the efforts of our Catholic Education Foundation and many individual parishes and schools who seek to assist those families who cannot afford a Catholic school education and who provided more than \$9.7 million in assistance last year.

This guide details the gifts of our Catholic schools. We are proud of the stellar academic and learning environment that Catholic schools provide, and I hope you review the excellent report card that our graduating class of 2014 posted. With a record \$121 million in scholarships, 98% are continuing their education beyond high school, and nearly two-thirds of the class received an academic scholarship. The average ACT score of 24.1 is well above state and national averages. In addition, the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade mean scale scores on the Terra Nova test exceed the Blue Ribbon cut scores for the current year, which puts our archdiocesan scores in the top 15% of standardized test scores in the country.

I hope that this information is helpful as you discern what is best for your children. Please know of my prayers for all parents in our Archdiocese as you seek to support your children in the school of love that is the family.

Sincerely yours in our Lord,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Joseph E. Kurtz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a cross at the end.

Most Reverend Joseph E. Kurtz, D.D.  
Archbishop of Louisville