One of the mission priorities for the Archdiocese of Dubuque is to strengthen programs for education in the Catholic Faith. This can be considered the most important Church ministry for continuing the mission of Jesus. Why? Because all Church ministries are inspired by love of Jesus. But we cannot love what we do not know, and we cannot know unless someone teaches us.

That is why it can be said that all Church ministries rise or fall on the strength of our efforts to educate and form people in our Catholic Faith. With regard to school-age children, we believe that parents are the first and best teachers of their children in how to live as a follower of Jesus. And when parents look to the Church for help, the best we can offer is a Catholic school, which partners with parents, but does not take their place. Even with the best teachers and facilities, if the faith is not taught and lived at home, the ministry of a Catholic school is greatly handicapped.

We should all be concerned that Catholic schools are high quality and accessible, even if we don't have school-age children, because of what is at stake: To make students different and better, so as to increase the potential that they make the world different and better with the light and salt of the Gospel!

God reward all who do so much as partners to continue the mission of Jesus by strengthening programs for education in the Catholic Faith, like the Catholic school.

On Sunday, January 28 through Saturday, February 3, all Archdiocesan Catholic Schools will join Catholic schools across the country to celebrate Catholic Schools Week 2018. This is the 45th anniversary of the event whereby schools, parishes and Dioceses in the United States join together to thank God for the gift of Catholic Schools and to celebrate.