

Defining Characteristics of Catholic Schools

9. Established by the Expressed Authority of the Bishop

Canon Law states, "Pastors of souls have the duty of making all possible arrangements so that all the faithful may avail themselves of a Catholic education" (Code of Canon Law, Canon 794). Bishops need to put forward the mission of Catholic schools, support and enhance the work of Catholic schools, and see that the education in the schools is based on principles of Catholic doctrine (John Paul II , Pastores Gregis, 52). Catholic schools have a formal and defined relationship with the Bishop guided by a spirituality of ecclesial communion, and should work to establish a relationship marked by mutual trust, close cooperation, continuing dialogue, and respect for the Bishop's legitimate authority (Code of Canon Law, Canon 803 #1 and #3; Miller, 2006, p. 33).

Narrative Summary

Canon Law states that, "Pastors of souls have the duty of making all possible arrangements so that all the faithful may avail themselves of a Catholic education." Since assuming the Office of Bishop in Baton Rouge, Bishop Muench has paid special attention to the Church's ministry to young people. He has appropriated funding to increase staffing within the Catholic Schools' office, under the leadership of Dr. Melanie Verges. Bishop Muench, in collaboration with Dr. Verges and the Diocesan School Board, has outlined school policy in the Diocese of Baton Rouge Administrative Manual. Bishop Muench presides over a teacher commissioning Mass at the beginning of the academic school year and over a Catholic School's Week Mass each year. As shepherd of the Diocese, he also presides over as many of the celebrations of the sacrament of confirmation as his calendar allows. He has appointed chaplains at all eight Catholic high schools in the Diocese of Baton Rouge. He also visits all Catholic elementary schools on a rotational basis. He meets monthly with the Presbyteral Council, and attends as many functions throughout the diocese as he can. The Administrative Manual for the Diocese of Baton Rouge does include some directives from the Bishop to the Catholic schools of the Diocese.

Examples

Pagella
Administrative Manual
Deaneries
School visits
Dr. Verges is acting Curia
Catholic School's Week Mass
Prayers for the Bishop by grade level
Confirmation
School Visits

Direction

St. George Catholic School would like for the Diocese of Baton Rouge, under the

Defining Characteristic 9: Established by the Expressed Authority of the Bishop

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authority of Bishop Muench, to adopt a more comprehensive set of religious education guideline for Kindergarten - 8th grade.