

Year of the Catholic School
February 5, 2006 – February 4, 2007

On February 5, 2006 Archbishop Charles J. Chaput declared the **Year of the Catholic School** providing a time for celebration of the heritage of our Catholic schools, dialogue about the current challenges and opportunities facing our schools, and reflection on the future direction of the ministry of Catholic school education. Throughout the year, the Office of Catholic Schools and parish school communities have been involved in many activities that have allowed the entire community to celebrate, dialogue and reflect on the ministry of Catholic schools.

On January 31, 2007 Archbishop Chaput celebrated Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception to conclude the Year of the Catholic School. Some of the highlights of the Year of the Catholic School that were shared at the closing of Mass included:

- Publication of 40+ global-level ‘information snapshots’ highlighting the value of Catholic education in archdiocesan Catholic schools and the importance of investing in Catholic education.
- Implementation of Archdiocese of Denver Catholic Schools brand and supporting materials including research results, brand platform, brand promise, reasons to believe, and call to action.
- Development and hosting of ‘Catholic School Symposium I’ where stakeholders from archdiocesan Catholic schools shared best practices in the areas of marketing, enrollment management, and increasing commitment and involvement of stakeholders.
- Implementation of the ‘Catholic School Voucher Program’ serving 250 new students in Kindergarten – 12th grade who were unable to afford a Catholic education. This program was made available by the generous commitment from Seeds of Hope of \$3 million over a 4-year period.
- Increased enrollment at archdiocesan Catholic schools of 1.84% - the first increase in enrollment in 5 years!

The Archdiocese of Denver’s Catholic Schools are an investment in the future of our children and our Catholic faith.