

March 11, 2009  
Year of St. Paul

Dear Fathers, Parish Director, Principals and Directors of Religious Education:

We are pleased to announce the release of the revised *Standards for Educators in Catholic Parishes and Schools*. The *Standards for Educators* preserve continuity in our educational, catechetical, and faith formation programs, uniting all those who teach the faith in our diocese and across the state.

In 1975, the bishops of Wisconsin first published statewide standards for educators in Catholic institutions, establishing minimum requirements for all school and catechetical program staff. All dioceses in Wisconsin adhere to these requirements and incorporate them into diocesan standards for catechetical instruction in schools and parishes. Periodically, bishops, diocesan staff, clergy and Catholic education leaders across the state review and update these standards. These new standards were produced after extensive consultation throughout the entire state.

The 2008 revision of the *Standards* features a new format, a new preamble, and new terminology. The standards have been updated to provide more uniformity in certification throughout the dioceses of Wisconsin, while at the same time providing flexibility to accommodate the different systems of certification utilized by each diocese. We know that the need for volunteers at the parish level of all education often poses challenges when we seek greater competence among our instructors, but the demand for excellence is also important.

Please review the accompanying standards and begin the process of making certain educators within our parishes and schools are compliant with them. Archdiocesan staff will be providing guidelines and assisting parishes with the implementation of these standards. If you have questions or concerns regarding the *Standards*, please contact our Office of Schools or Office of Catechesis and Youth Ministry.

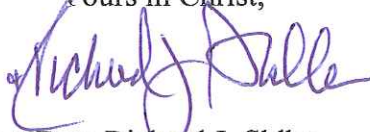
Catholic education is a vital component of our Church's mission. It is our commitment to quality faith instruction that ensures our continued faithful presence in the community. By publishing these *Standards for Educators in Catholic Parishes and Schools*, we guarantee that our commitment to faith and adherence to Catholic principles remains the focus of our education endeavors.

With gratitude for your attention and efforts, and prayerful best wishes, we are,

Yours in Christ,



Most Rev. Timothy M. Dolan  
Archbishop of Milwaukee



Most Rev. Richard J. Sklba  
Auxiliary Bishop of Milwaukee



Most Rev. William P. Callahan  
Auxiliary Bishop of Milwaukee