



Office of Faith Formation
Diocese of Orange - Marywood Center
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March 15, 2010

Dear Parents,

It is my pleasure and privilege to greet you as the new Superintendent of Schools for the Diocese of Orange. As a recipient of the benefits of Catholic education in the diocese first at St. Barbara Elementary and later Mater Dei High School, I have been lucky to serve in the ongoing mission of Catholic education as a teacher and administrator at Mater Dei and now in this unanticipated new role as Superintendent. I am grateful for the invitation of Bishop Tod Brown to undertake a new position and a new mission. I am also grateful that Father Gerald Horan will remain as Vicar of the Office of Faith Formation, and I look forward to working in close collaboration with him. It is with great joy, and no little trepidation, that I start on this new path with you, relying on the strength of God's providence.

I want to begin by thanking you for your ongoing commitment to the importance of Catholic Education in the lives of your children. My wife and I have been fortunate to send our daughter to Holy Family Cathedral School and now to Mater Dei. Your dedication and sacrifice to provide this gift for your children is recognized by our schools and the diocesan office, and though your children may not express their gratitude daily, the impact of Catholic education on their lives will pay dividends in all aspects of their education and character. Beyond your financial commitment, thank you for your daily involvement in your child's education through your support of their work in the classroom, on the field, and at liturgical celebration.

I want also to express with you my gratitude for all those school faculty and staff members who work with you in the enormous task of education. These dedicated women and men give of themselves daily, often at personal sacrifice, to provide the finest education available today. Without their gifts, Catholic education would not be possible.

As I begin this new position it seems fitting to articulate my goals and vision for the schools of the diocese.

- First, our schools will maintain and develop their Catholic identity through students' experiences in the classroom, their interactions with adults and with one another, and through liturgical life
- Second, our schools will be places of support and safety for all the students they serve.

- Third, our schools will continue to provide excellent education for students of differing needs and abilities, preparing them academically, socially, and spiritually for the challenges of adult life.
- Fourth, our schools will integrate appropriate use of technological resources and tools in order to truly prepare students for the 21st Century
- Finally, our schools throughout the Diocese through proper financial management and support will remain viable resources to our families and to the Church into the future.

It is no secret to any of us that we live in difficult and challenging times for schools and for society in general. It is at times like these that providing education for the next generation becomes more critical than ever, for it is these young men and women who will help to chart the future for us all. Throughout their history, Catholic schools have provided a strong foundation in challenging times. As a parent I know how challenging and confusing the education process can be. I thank you for your patience in working with schools to resolve any issues or misunderstandings, and should an issue remain unresolved at the school level, I will do my best to listen and support your student's educational progress. Please know that the Catholic schools of the Diocese of Orange are committed to this mission and to you as parents.

So we sail on together over rough seas to a destination yet unknown, but confident in our God who guides us.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gregory Dhuyvetter', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Gregory Dhuyvetter
Superintendent of Catholic Schools