



The Network



Thomas Groome, in an article in a book published by the NCEA entitled “One Hundred Years of Catholic Education” says that “the early Church sensed that its overarching mission was to continue God’s work of salvation in Jesus – helping to bring about the reign of God. And they recognized that education would be an integral aspect of this saving work.” Groome’s words are in line with Lumen Gentium which states that “Christ is the light of the nations and consequently this holy synod...ardently desires to bring all humanity that light of Christ...by proclaiming his Gospel to every creature.” [LG, 1:1]

For unto us a child is born...
[Isaiah 9:6]



The work of education is part of the mission of the Church and in accordance with the documents set forth by the Vatican II council. In no uncertain terms the Church is committed to keeping Catholic schools available by providing a Gospel-based education to all who would choose it. Christ carried out the work of redemption in poverty and oppression and we as a Church are called to do the same— to stand up for those who are unable to stand up for themselves, with our focus being on the gift of Catholic education.

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As a large and diverse Catholic community each of us are called to participate in po-

litical life and to familiarize ourselves with the functions of our legislature in the State and

Federal government. Much responsibility rests then, with the community of the faithful to ad-

vocate public policies that would benefit the children of poor families. Catholic education

has endured revolutions of changes in the face of political, economic and social turmoil.

There is a huge increase in the need for immigration and refugee services especially in our

inner cities. This Christmas, and as we approach a new year, let us reactivate our role in our

community in political life by cultivating an awareness of social justice and service to the

common good. Mother Teresa said that we are called, not to be successful but to be faithful.

I believe that it is this faithfulness to the cause of Catholic education that will help to pre-

serve dignity and establish peace and prosperity in our communities.

And unto us , indeed, a Child is born! My prayer is as we celebrate the birth of the

Christ Child we will be renewed in hope and strength to face any challenge that lies ahead. I

am most grateful for your support during the past year and I look forward to working with you

in the future.

With Christmas Blessings, Usha

Contact Information for your State Network Directors:

Northern New Jersey

Mary T. McElroy

66 Irwin Street

Springfield, NJ 07081

Phone: 973.467.9396

Cell: 973.309.1927

Fax: 973.467.1439

E-mail: network@rcan.org

Central New Jersey

Kim Chorba

83 Jackson Avenue

Pompton Plains, NJ 07444

Phone: 973.907.7329

Cell: 973.615.9483

E-mail:

chorba4@optonline.net

Southern New Jersey

P. Usha Rosidivito

Diocese of Trenton Pastoral Center

701 Lawrenceville Road,

Lawrenceville, NJ 08638

Phone: 609.403.7173

E-mail: usharosidivito@gmail.com

or urosid@dioceseoftrenton.org