



Catholic Parishes Rally to Support Schools Collection to be raised at all Catholic churches in Eastern Washington for school security initiatives

The Catholic Diocese of Spokane supports 16 Catholic Schools in Eastern Washington, three high schools and 13 primary schools. From the earliest days of the Church in Washington State, education has been a priority of the Catholic community, many parishes building schools before they built a proper church building. Every year Catholic schools and churches celebrate Catholic Schools Week to honor the work of Catholic education. From January 27, 2019, to February 2, 2019, the Diocese of Spokane will celebrate Catholic Schools and launch the first annual diocesan-wide collection for the support of Catholic Schools. The fundraising drive in 2019 will support ongoing improvements to school security.

In 2018, there were 82 school shooting incidents across the United States, a record high number. Shootings that occur in schools are rare events relative to other acts of gun violence; however, mass casualty events in schools can have a profound impact that pervades every aspect of school, family and community life for many years. The Diocese of Spokane is seeking to support the schools of Eastern Washington as they improve physical plants, seek additional training to respond to and prevent violence on school grounds, as well as purchase necessary safety equipment.

“Education is one of the greatest gifts parents can give their children. Every parent wants the best for their child,” says Bishop Daly, bishop of Spokane, “Our Catholic schools meet this need by integrating religious truth and values with quality academics.” Catholic schools in the diocese have a current enrollment of 4,283 students, and thousands upon thousands of alumni in the region. The impact of Catholic schools is profound says Bishop Daly “every community in our diocese benefits from the strength and health of our Catholic schools.”

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*For more information, contact: Chris Kreslins, Director of Stewardship and Development
509-358-8000 ckreslins@dioceseofspokane.org or
The Diocese of Spokane Office of Education at 509-358-3300*

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