

# ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



Catholic Schools  
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August 3, 2017

Dear Colleagues in Faith,

We hope you had a blessed summer and welcome you to the 2017/18 school year. We join you in praying for guidance around the opportunities, challenges and blessings this new school year will bring.

Thanks to you and those educators who came before you, the Archdiocese of Chicago has a long, rich history of providing students with an excellent Christ-centered education focused on educating the whole person through an environment of academic rigor, faith and service to others. You have been blessed with the responsibility of serving, educating and mentoring our youth -- the future leaders of our city, state and world. We thank you for all that you do.

In looking forward, as a community of faith leaders and teachers, we are called to Repair, Rebuild and Renew Our Church. In response to this appeal, we are eager to share that we have partnered together -- the Archdiocese of Chicago and Catholic Charities -- to address the growing prevalence of hunger and food insecurity in our community. There is no one face to hunger -- it affects children, older adults, people with disabilities, veterans, the working poor and others. More than 729,000 people in Cook County have food insecurity, including more than 227,000 children. Every year, more than 150,000 people rely on Catholic Charities network of food pantries throughout Cook and Lake Counties.

As part of our partnership, we are launching a new initiative in our Catholic schools -- the *Soup-er Stadium Challenge*. The *Challenge* asks every Catholic school student, teacher and faculty member in the Archdiocese to donate (at least) one non-perishable food item to stock the Catholic Charities' food pantries. Our goal is to collect enough food to fill every seat in Soldier Field...twice. This effort will provide more than 100,000 meals to Chicagoans in need. The *Challenge* kicks-off on September 12 and ends October 6, 2017.

As part of this initiative, the Office of Catholic Schools has created a hunger curriculum for you to integrate into your classrooms this year so that this effort moves beyond a food drive and is truly a learning and growing experience for our Catholic school students.

You will receive additional details and materials related to the *Challenge* from Catholic Charities and the Office of Catholic Schools. We hope we can count on your support of this truly important effort.

As said in Matthew 25:35, "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me," we are called to renew our commitment to help the underserved.

Together in Christ,

Cardinal Blase J. Cupich  
Archbishop of Chicago

Rev. Monsignor Michael M. Boland  
President  
Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago

**S**UPER  
STADIUM  
CHALLENGE

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

