Saving Grace with a Faith-Based Education

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De Sales University
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## Graduation and College Attendance Rates*


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of School</th>
<th>Graduation Rate</th>
<th>% of Graduates Attending College</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Catholic</td>
<td>99.1%</td>
<td>84.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Religious</td>
<td>97.9%</td>
<td>63.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Sectarian</td>
<td>95.7%</td>
<td>56.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Schools</td>
<td>73.2%</td>
<td>44.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Catholic School Enrollment Trends*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1960</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Catholic elementary schools</td>
<td>10,501</td>
<td>6,923</td>
<td>5,774</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catholic secondary schools</td>
<td>2,392</td>
<td>1,221</td>
<td>1,206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total elementary &amp; secondary schools</td>
<td>12,893</td>
<td>8,144</td>
<td>6,980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students in Catholic elementary schools</td>
<td>4.4M</td>
<td>2.0M</td>
<td>1.5M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students in Catholic secondary schools</td>
<td>880K</td>
<td>640K</td>
<td>598K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total elementary &amp; secondary students</td>
<td>5.3M</td>
<td>2.7M</td>
<td>2.1M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Parental Demand for Catholic Schools:

Survey showed approx. 25% of Catholics survey indicated that they enrolled a child in Catholic school.

Survey showed 4% were unable to enroll their children due to space limits or tuition.

Survey showed 26% with under-aged children intended to send their children to Catholic school.

* At the request of the National Catholic Education Association (NCEA), CARA conducted a study specifically focusing on the status of Catholic Elementary Schools in the U.S. entitled “Study Primary Trends, Challenges and Outlook: A Report on Catholic Elementary Schools 2000-2005.” Survey summary by Sr. Dale McDonald, Momentum, September/October 2006, pp. 11-16.
Perspectives on the Catholic School Experience:

Parents surveyed believed the Catholic education was better than public education in terms of academics, moral issues and discipline.

95-100% of superintendents, administrators and pastors felt they could meet expectations of parents.

90% of parents who attended Catholic school rated their experiences at good to excellent range, and this influenced their decision to send their children to Catholic school.
Parents’ Top 6 Reasons for Enrolling in Catholic Schools*

1. Quality religious education.
2. Safe environment.
3. Quality academic instruction.
4. Discipline and order.
5. Sense of community.
6. Affordable tuition.

Challenges and Concerns*

- Lack of schools where Catholic community populations are on a rise/surplus of schools where Catholic population has decreased.
- Weakened attachment of schools to parish life.
- Retention of teachers and school leaders.
- Poor marketing about the benefits of Catholic school education.
- Tuition costs and insufficient tuition assistance programs.

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Three Common Characteristics of Catholic High Schools*

College prep academic program for all students.

Social organization structured to create and advance a caring learning environment.

Institutional action toward social justice in an ecumenical and multicultural world.

Faculty selected these schools for social relevance.

Faculty constantly pushed students “to face up to the demands that fulfilling their dreams will require.”

Faculty and students “shared in the school mission and spirit.”

Integrating Catholic Social Teaching: Catholic High School Programs *

- 73% of the schools had a course or courses in Catholic social teaching.
- 67% offered retreats that focused on social service, social justice and/or Catholic Social Teaching.
- 98% offered regular, ongoing, direct social service volunteering opportunities.
- 53% offered “urban plunges” or immersion trips in the local area.
- 50% offered immersion trips to other parts of the US.
- 39% offered immersion trips abroad.

*Living Faith, Loving Action: Catholic Social Teaching in the Catholic Secondary School, survey administered by CARA, Fall 2004 on behalf of NCEA and Catholic Relief Services.
1. Parish and Diocesan Schools

2. Alternative Catholic School Models such as Cristo Rey and Nativity Miguel Networks


5. Religious Charter Schools

Catholic Education: A Gift to Save and Share
Create a separate nondenominational foundation to manage the funding of the school and to help raise money for the program.

Prepare a charter application under state law that specifies that the new charter school will be culturally sensitive to religious groups served but will not endorse the tenets of that religious faith.

Develop a mission that has specific secular educational and pedagogical objectives totally unrelated to religious and cultural purposes.

Design a curriculum that meets state guidelines but also includes religious/cultural sensitivity mission.

Focus recruitment on the particular groups but must also be open to members (students, staff and faculty) of other faiths.

Thank you