

Dear students, staff, alumni and friends of DMCS,

What a joy it is for me to celebrate twenty years of Divine Mercy Catholic School!

Over these past four years as Bishop of the Diocese of Saint John, I have been truly edified by this “little school with a big heart”. DMCS is a beacon of light in the diocese providing a top-tier Catholic education to nearly 130 students at an affordable tuition rate. It is a safe place where students, teachers, staff and family encounter Jesus daily and bring him into the world. From its humble beginnings in the basement of the former St. Peter’s Church, to the present day which sees a thriving school bursting at the seams in the former Redemptorist Rectory, the story of DMCS is one of perseverance, faith, and unwavering hope in Jesus. It is no secret that the key to its success is a radical surrender to Jesus – to the point that well before students have arrived at the school, teachers and staff are in the chapel, praying before the Blessed Sacrament. Jesus is truly at the helm of this school, and the good fruit is evident.

Catholic education, as lived at DMCS, helps create a Catholic culture by forming leaders who think and live, in all aspects of life, from the perspective of faith. Through faithfulness to your mission of education for the whole child, you are raising up missionary disciples and leaders that are a tremendous gift to the community. Catholic schools are essential to the Church’s mission as they allow us to transmit the faith from one generation to the next. They help to form and equip young men and women to make virtuous and holy choices, to become priests, and religious sisters, and good parents, and to become leaders in business, the arts, and public life. As a product of Catholic education myself, and having seen firsthand the wonderful dedication of the DMCS administration and staff to providing a first-rate Catholic education to its students, I can attest that supporting the mission of DMCS is an investment in excellence.

I am so proud to count myself among the many who have been touched by DMCS over the years. The words of Fr. Gerry Grant, C.S.s.R., adorning the walls of the school say it all for me – “the SON always shines in the North End.” Each time I walk through the doors of the school, I find my spirits lifted.

To every student, staff, teacher, alumni and friend of DMCS, keep your eyes fixed on Jesus and continue walking in his ways. You are an indispensable gift to the entire community, and I rejoice at the goodness of God for these last 20 years of your history. May the Lord continue to provide in abundance for Divine Mercy Catholic School, bringing all who pass through its doors into a deeper encounter with Jesus, the source of all hope.

Deo Gratias!

✠ Christian Riesbeck, CC
Bishop of Saint John