



# SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS OFFICE

## ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK

1011 FIRST AVENUE 18<sup>th</sup> FLOOR NEW YORK, NEW YORK, 10022-4112 PHONE: (646)-794-2802

*Educators pass on knowledge and values with their words; but their words will have an incisive effect on children and young people if they are accompanied by their witness, their consistent way of life. Without consistency it is impossible to educate!*

-Pope Francis  
7 June 2013

April 24, 2025

### Dear Colleagues in the Ministry of Catholic Education:

United with millions around the world, we remember with both sorrow and joy the passing of our beloved Holy Father, Pope Francis. Though we grieve the loss of a faithful shepherd on earth, our hearts are lifted by the radiant HOPE of the Resurrection. In Christ's victory over death, we rejoice in the sure and certain promise that Pope Francis now shares in the eternal life he so faithfully proclaimed and longed for—a life made possible by our Risen Lord.

Catholic school educators have a profound responsibility to use this “moment” to teach the young people entrusted to our care about the mysteries of our faith and the rites of the Church. We are called to teach not only by our words but with our witness! It has been almost twenty years since the death of a reigning pope and, in this era of streaming news and social media, we have the privilege to curate (in age-appropriate ways) the most important pieces of information about the life and legacy of Pope Francis. We ask that schools prioritize the sharing of a portion or the entirety of the Funeral Liturgy (again as age-appropriate) to students.

As a sign of unity, we ask that schools across the archdiocese follow the following plan for five school days of prayer for the repose of Pope Francis's soul, beginning on Monday, April 28, 2025, and ending on Friday, May 2, 2025. Supplementary materials are attached to this email, which may help guide your school community.

**April 28** Recitation of the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary

**April 29** Visit to Church or Chapel

**April 30** Chaplet or Divine Mercy

**May 1** Prayer Service

**May 2** Regional Mass (*more information will follow about location, time and student representation*)

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation in this visible sign of our love for the Church and the successor of St. Peter. May God grant Pope Francis eternal light and peace.

Sincerely, in Christ,

Sr. Mary Grace Walsh, ASCJ, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools