



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, New York State's community of Catholics is united by the bonds of a common faith and shared hope for the future and this year New Yorkers join with the statewide Catholic community as it celebrates an outstanding tradition in education that is well-established and soundly maintained today; and

Whereas, it is in our children's best interests to give them every opportunity to grow up to be morally, physically, intellectually and emotionally strong, and Catholic primary and secondary schools across the country are recognized, by Catholic and non-Catholic parents alike, as offering an excellent education for students of all ages and backgrounds; and

Whereas, many have benefited from a Catholic school education founded upon a tradition that goes back to 1800 with the opening of a parochial school for the children of Saint Peter's Church in New York City, and under the spiritual leadership of Catholic clergy in communities across New York State, other parish-based Catholic schools were established; and

Whereas, there are many rewards of a Catholic school education for children of all backgrounds as both religious and lay teachers, as well as principals and administrators, work to ensure the spiritual, social and emotional development of students, opening their doors to welcome children of all religious beliefs; and

Whereas, Catholic schools provide a solid foundation for a life that reflects the unifying values of this nation and its inclusiveness in terms of cultural, social and religious views that are equally respected and accepted; and

Whereas, the merits of these institutions have made them a valued part of the state's education system, as Catholic schools have produced great leaders, public servants, achieved professionals, and responsible and productive citizens; and

Whereas, this week-long observance provides an opportune time to acknowledge the contributions of Catholic schools throughout their history of more than 200 years in New York State and to recognize their longstanding success, and in reflecting upon this year's theme, "Catholic Schools Light the Way" we appreciate the ways a Catholic school education adds clarification to young lives, preparing students to contribute to our society and build a better world for future generations;

Now, Therefore, I, Eliot Spitzer, Governor of the State of New York, hereby proclaim January 27-February 2, 2008 as

Catholic Schools Week

in the Empire State.



G i v e n under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this eighteenth
day of January in the year two thousand eight.

Governor

Secretary to the Governor