



ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE

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OFFICE OF THE AUXILIARY BISHOP

September 1, 2022

Dear Friends in Christ,

At the time of my ordination as a bishop, I took the motto “Go Make Disciples.” Fulfilling our Lord’s mandate to make His name known and encouraging others to do the same is at the heart of my ministry. Nothing is more inspiring and encouraging to me than seeing others grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ as missionary disciples.

One such place where I see Catholic discipleship in action is within our Catholic schools. Every day, our teachers, staff and administrators are helping to form intentional disciples of Jesus. They excel at providing our students with quality academic programs while also accompanying them on a path to a relationship with the Lord. The foundation of a Catholic education is based on living the values of the Gospel. As a result, many students themselves encourage their parents and families to become better disciples.

Knowing the Christ-centered environment found in our schools, many parents want nothing more than to have their children receive a Catholic education; however, the obstacle of cost can derail their desire. I will never forget when at last year’s **Partners In Excellence (PIE) Scholarship Program** breakfast, Riccy Amador, a PIE scholarship recipient, shared the words her mother often said to her and her siblings. “I want you all to be better than me,” she said. “I want you to have the education I could not have. I want you to be great in life.”

The **PIE Scholarship Program** is the key that unlocks the door to a Catholic education, particularly for children from low- and moderate-income households in Baltimore City. In our schools, young people discover their own God-given gifts and learn how to use these gifts in positive, life-affirming ways. Just this past May, Riccy graduated from Loyola University Maryland with a degree in sociology, and she intends to enroll in law school with the goal of becoming an immigration lawyer. PIE enabled Riccy and her two brothers to fulfill their mother’s wishes of having a high-quality, Catholic education, and they are all certainly well on their way to doing great things in life. You likely have not met Riccy, but, as a PIE donor, you have changed her life.

Giving to the **PIE Scholarship Program** is an opportunity to make a difference in Baltimore City where young people are in desperate need of hope. Your PIE gift will help to ensure an excellent education for elementary and high school students, improving the lives of our Catholic school students and their families, and in turn enhancing our local community for future generations.

Now is the time when your actions can give our students a future.

Friends, will you assist children and families who need support in continuing their Catholic education so that together we can **go forth and make disciples**?

I also encourage you to consider learning more about the PIE Scholarship Program by attending a school tour or by supporting our PIE Giving Day in October. More information on both can be found on the PIE website (pieschools.org).

I remain fully convinced that the more young people in Baltimore who receive a Catholic education, the better our community will become. I wish every child in the City could attend one of our schools! And while we may not have enough Catholic schools to accommodate that dream, we have plenty of capacity in our existing schools and plenty of families who would love to enroll their children. **I am appealing to you today so we can help more children who will be leaders in making disciples.**

I pray that you’ll join me in getting involved so that we can positively change lives. Thank you for the consideration and may God bless you and your family! In the Lord,

+ Adam J. Parker

Most Reverend Adam J. Parker
Auxiliary Bishop