



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK

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MICHAEL J. DEEGAN, SUPERINTENDENT

March 24, 2022

Dear Catholic Schools Community,

On Monday, March 28, the nearly 54,000 students, faculty, and staff of all Catholic schools across the Archdiocese of New York will join in spirit for a Day of Prayer for Ukraine. Utilizing a suggested curriculum and prayers provided by our Office of Catholic Identity, they will learn about the situation facing families, just like their own. The collective prayers of our Catholic school community will be for their safety and an end to *all* hatred, war, and violence in Ukraine, Eastern Europe, and around the world—even here at home.

Our mental health experts and crisis counselors at ADAPP have also provided sensitive, age-appropriate [resources for conversations about war](#) you may wish to have with your children and how to put those concerns into perspective in our part of the world. It is important to note that our Catholic schools have a good number of families from Ukraine and of Ukrainian descent, and we stand ready to support and comfort each of them in their time of need.

As a show of support and unity, *everyone* in our school system is encouraged to wear the Ukrainian colors of blue and yellow on Monday. Also, some schools and classes may wish to raise funds or collect goods for refugee centers in Poland and other countries bordering Ukraine.

For some time now, we have held fast to the very Catholic principle of our faith that we are all part of something greater than ourselves. On Monday, when we come together for our sisters and brothers half a world away, it will be something to behold, to see our faith *in action*, not just something we have, but something we *do*.

God bless,

Mr. Michael J. Deegan
Superintendent of Schools
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