

**Tomorrow's Hope Remarks of Bishop Barres**  
**The Stars for Students Gala**  
**RXR Plaza**  
**May 24, 2023**

Thank you all for your presence here tonight, a sign of your deep commitment to the mission of Catholic Education. Thank you to the many people who support the work of the **Tomorrow's Hope Foundation**, making the life-changing Catholic School path accessible to so many children on Long Island.

We share a collective gratitude for the visionary and founding efforts of Lew Ranieri and his family, and Bishop Murphy, as well as for the hard work and dedication of the Tomorrow's Hope Board, Staff, Corporate Members and volunteers.

We are so pleased to honor the Maturo and Quick families tonight along with their children and their families for their steadfast and creative support of Catholic Education on Long Island for decades.

Our *Morningstar Initiative* for Catholic School revitalization (under the leadership of the President of Chaminade HS, Brother Tom Cleary, and the entire Marianist community, along with Pam Sanders, our Superintendent) is making fine progress that includes a strong surge in enrollment at *Saint John Paul II* School in Riverhead and *Our Lady of Guadalupe* Dual Language School, a major step in expanding our outreach to our Hispanic community on Long Island. *Morningstar's* outstanding advances in Catholic identity and academic excellence are driving the focus of our schools' revitalization. It is critical to the evangelizing mission of the Church that our Catholic schools serve and celebrate a diverse, multi-cultural Long Island.

Grounded in the objective moral truths of our Faith, our Catholic Schools serve as a light in the darkness, pointing to the saving love of God. Moral relativism and coercive pressures try to force us to hide or abandon our faith in Jesus both in our professional and personal lives. Our religious liberties are constantly threatened, especially here in New York State. Our ability to continue the healing mission of Christ through Catholic healthcare, our ability to run faithful Catholic Schools and Universities, and our most basic free exercise of religion in the public square are all under attack.

Cardinal Dolan recently wrote: “It seems the deck is already stacked against people of faith and religious believers [...]. If things continue along the path they’re moving, Congress could be on the verge of suppressing faithful witness to longstanding beliefs....”

Society needs well-formed, articulate, and joyful Catholics who bear witness to the truths of our Catholic moral teachings on marriage and the family, the sanctity of human life, the dignity of the human person created male and female in the image and likeness of God, and the dignity of the poor, the sick and the refugee that we are called to serve as Catholic Good Samaritans.

Authentic Catholic education forms courageous disciples of Christ who defend the rights of citizens to live their faith freely. Authentic disciples lovingly bring the light of Christ into the darkness and transform the culture.

That is why we celebrate here tonight. Pope Francis calls us to a courageous renewal and “missionary transformation” of the Church in the Splendor of Catholic Truth so that our people, our parishes and our schools “go forth” and serve.

That kind of missionary transformation only happens when Jesus is found at the center of our lives. To refocus our parishes, schools and all our Catholic institutions on Christ, we have undertaken a Eucharistic Revival, which in the words of Pope St. John Paul II, is a rediscovery of “Eucharistic Amazement” and Eucharistic Devotion.

Eucharistic Revival means radical fidelity to the Sunday Catholic Mass and consistent Eucharistic Adoration on the part of our teachers, our staff, and our families.

Families devoted to Holy Mass will be families devoted to Catholic education. Jesus Christ, truly present, Body and Blood, soul, and divinity at the Catholic Mass, moves our hearts, minds and souls.

This is the key to the future of Catholic Education on Long Island.

Tonight, we express our gratitude for your advocacy and financial support of the Tomorrow’s Hope Foundation but the greatest thing you can do for Catholic Education on Long Island is to be radically faithful to the Sunday Catholic Mass.

As we anticipate the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Jesus Christ on Sunday, June 11, 2023 we pray for a renewal of our faith in Christ’s Eucharistic

presence and a strengthening of our Catholic Schools. Once again, thank you for your faithful support of Catholic education on Long Island. May God bless you and your families, our domestic churches, which, in the words of Pope Francis, “transform the world and history.”

## **INVOCATION:**

Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

As we approach the great Solemnities of Pentecost, the Most Holy Trinity and the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, we ask your blessings upon us and all involved in the evangelizing adventure of Catholic education on Long Island.

May the tongues of flame and the driving wind of the Holy Spirit consecrate our Catholic schools, our Morningstar initiative, our students, our parents and families, our faculties and our leadership in the liberating truths of our Catholic faith.

May we all be ambassadors of the truth who transparently assent and courageously and compassionately witness in the public square to the Catholic Church’s teaching on marriage and the family, human anthropology and the dignity of the human person, the Gospel of Life and Catholic Social Justice teaching. May we all be guided by your Holy Spirit.

May we all open up to the holiness and mission of your Trinitarian indwelling so that we can live Jesus and respond deeply and courageously to our baptismal call to holiness and mission.

May we be faithful to the Eucharist and the Sunday Catholic Mass. May our hearts beat in rhythm with the humility, mercy, forgiveness and joy of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. May the inspired Word of God be a light and lamp for our steps (Ps. 119) and may the Holy Eucharist be the true way of all our loves upon earth. (Tolkien)

Give us all a burning desire for Heaven and Eternal Life so that we can know how best to invest our lives on earth. Amen.