

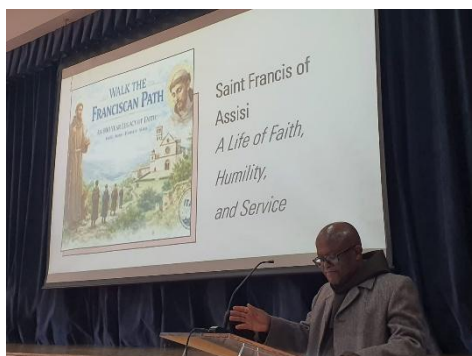
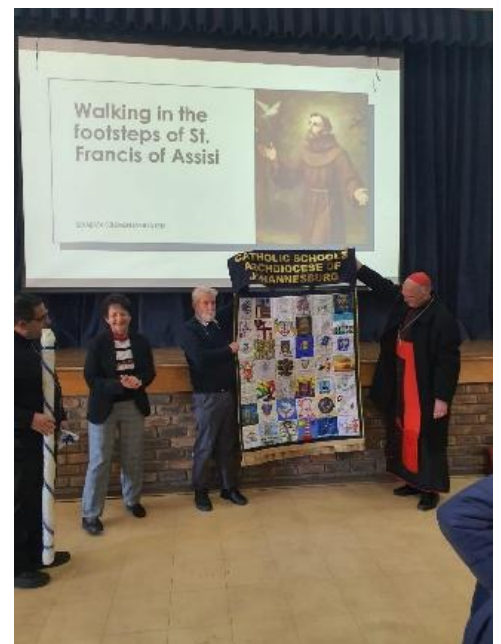
ANNUAL GATHERING OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

AT DE LA SALLE HOLY CROSS COLLEGE 6 JUNE 2026

It was a freezing cold morning as we gathered in St Charles Catholic Church in Victory Park to start the day of celebrations. The Mass was concelebrated by His Eminence Stephen Cardinal Brislin and the Vicar for Education and newly elected Chair of the GCBE.



After some warming refreshments we gathered in the School Hall. His Eminence was presented with the banner that has been a year in the making. Made of a collection of squares designed by each of the schools in the Diocese.



Fr Solly gave an address "Walking in the Footsteps of St Francis". Honour the 800th Anniversary of this beloved Saint emphasizing the theme used during Catholic Schools Week. At the same proclaiming the year's theme "Blessed are the Peacemakers".



This was followed by the Annual 'Graduation' of those who completed Echoing the Word. The class of 2025!



We also took time to celebrate all those amazing people who have given 20 years or more serving in our Catholic Schools.



Among them, our longest serving staff member Martha Bridget Phungula (St Teresa's) She has served the school for 42 years. On her right is Jenny Potgieter, a long-time member of the CSO staff now teaching RE at Holy Family College.



We also take time to honour and acknowledge those schools who get their Statistics back to the office first. Well done to Sr Lidia from Laura Vicuna and St Catherine's Convent (Florida)...

....and we ended with the annual draw. In a fitting moment, by chance, Aranka Mennen won the hamper after delivering a moving tribute describing her 39 years of service at Assumption Convent Malvern.



A wonderful, if not chilly day, spent as a community of people who serve in Catholic Education.