



The mission of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit is the mission of the Catholic Church, to reveal God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit to all people and to teach them about the fullness of His love. “Indeed the primordial mission of the Church is to proclaim God and to be His witness before the world” (GDC). Catholic education shares in a special way in the Church’s mission by proclaiming and witnessing Jesus Christ and His teachings.

Catholic education, which includes education, formation, and transformation, exists in order to evangelize. Two important elements that make up the process of evangelization are proclamation and witness. It is essential, therefore, that those who serve in Catholic education proclaim Jesus Christ, His life and ministry, present the Catholic faith in its fullness and be Christ’s witness to the world.

Initially those being evangelized will be attracted to and listen to those who are good witnesses. “The Good News proclaimed by the witness of life sooner or later has to be proclaimed by the word of Life” (Evangeliū Nutiandi). Some in Catholic education - religion teachers and educational leaders - are called to be explicit proclaimers of the Word. But all who serve in Catholic education are called to be witnesses to the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church. Therefore, the following Witness Statement applies to all who serve in Catholic education.

**All who serve in Catholic education in the school programs of the Diocese of Arlington will witness by their public behavior, actions and words a life consistent with the teachings of the Catholic Church.**

Only those persons who can support this Witness Statement are to be employed by pastors and principals in the Diocese of Arlington. All who serve in Catholic education in the Diocese of Arlington should be made aware that support of this witness Statement must be reflected in their public behavior.

**All who serve in Catholic education should:**

- **Believe in God**
- **Support belief in Jesus Christ**
- **Engage in prayer**
- **Respect ecclesiastical authority**
- **Possess a basic knowledge of the Catholic Church**
- **Not take a public position contrary to the Catholic Church**
- **Demonstrate a public life consistent with the teachings of the Catholic Church**
- **If Catholic, have not publicly rejected the Catholic Church**
- **Be active members of the Catholic Church, or of their own church if not Catholic**

The above is a thorough but not all-inclusive listing of the implications of this Witness Statement.

As a teacher and/or administrator in a Catholic school in the Diocese of Arlington, I will support the Witness Statement and its implications.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_