



Office for
Development

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The Bishop Flores Memorial Fund for Catholic Education
"Strengthening Catholic Schools in the Diocese of San Diego" Collaborative With USD

"The role our Catholic schools play in educating and forming the faith of our children continues to be invaluable today. Not only will these children become the Church of tomorrow, but they will also fill the most important roles in leadership and ministry as the Church reaches out to the world." - Bishop Flores, August 2014

San Diego, CA. - The Diocese of San Diego has established the Bishop Flores Memorial Fund for Catholic Education at www.diocese-sdiego.org/bishopfloresfund. The purpose of this fund is to provide financial assistance for children in need to attend Catholic schools in the Diocese of San Diego. The diocese is currently the largest private education system in the region, serving both San Diego and Imperial counties, including 43 elementary schools and 5 high schools.

Bishop's Background: Raised in Riverside County, Bishop Flores was one of six children. When his parents could not afford to send him to Catholic high school, the local Knights of Columbus paid his tuition. Before his ordination, he spent years as a school teacher. His experiences made him a strong advocate for Catholic schools and the importance that Catholic education "must be accessible to children of all families no matter their race, culture, or economic condition."

"Strategic Vision Committee": During his first year, Flores promised he would not close a single Catholic school in the diocese, reversing an alarming recent trend. He had recently commissioned a strategic vision committee to provide recommendations to strengthen the Catholic school system and partnered with USD to conduct a study analyzing the sustainability of Catholic elementary schools in the diocese. The findings and recommendations of the USD study "Strengthening Catholic Schools in the Diocese of San Diego" can be found at www.diocese-sdiego.org/usdresearch.

Catholic schools have made a lasting impact on our region, with the values-based education transforming tens of thousands of children to be responsible, globally aware citizens of our great nation.

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