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ARCHBISHOP CHAPUT ISSUES CALL TO ACTION ON SCHOOL CHOICE DURING CATHOLICS SCHOOLS WEEK 2012

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia will join in the national observance of Catholic Schools Week beginning January 29, 2012 through February 5, 2012. Catholic Schools Week is an annual celebration of the values-centered, faith-filled education that students receive in Catholic elementary, secondary and special education schools. The national theme for Catholic Schools Week 2012 is “Faith. Academics. Service.”

In his weekly column: *Catholic Schools Week – How you and I can help*, Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap., said, “We can honor Catholic Schools Week this year by actually doing something about the fiscal problems hurting our schools. We need to press our lawmakers, respectfully but vigorously, to pass school choice....School vouchers do *not* mean “government support for religious schools.” That argument is flatly false. *No vouchers go to any school, religious or otherwise.* Vouchers do, however, return the power of educational choice to parents, where it belongs. In doing so, vouchers make all schools more accountable for the quality of education they deliver. Parents get the voucher. Parents choose the school. This makes perfect sense.”

To read the Archbishop’s full column, please visit www.catholicphilly.com. School families are urged to visit the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference website to join the advocacy network and send a message to their legislators at www.pacatholic.org/advocacy.

Total Enrollment (individual county numbers appear at the end of the release):

Parish Elementary Schools: 49,172
Archdiocesan High Schools: 15,172
Archdiocesan Schools of Special Education: 212