

**ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA  
BACK TO SCHOOL EVENT**

**CATHEDRAL BASILICA OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2017**

***Bishop Fitzgerald:*** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
***All:*** Amen.

***Bishop Fitzgerald:*** The Lord be with you.  
***All:*** And with your spirit.

***Bishop Fitzgerald:*** Let us pray.

Heavenly Father,  
you give us your Son as our Divine Teacher.  
With the help of the Holy Spirit, we learn from him  
to follow your commands and to serve one another.

We come to you, as we begin this new academic year,  
to ask your blessing upon all of the students, school families,  
teachers, and administrators in our Catholic Schools.

May they be filled with zeal to know and live the Faith  
that is their primary course of studies.

May they be ready to shape their lives according to the Gospel.  
May they be eager to announce this same Gospel to others  
by the example of their lives.

We recall the tragic events of terror in our own land  
on September 11, 2001.  
As we pray anew for all who were victims that day,  
we pledge to work for greater peace and justice everywhere.

We ask the special intercession of Our Lady, Seat of Wisdom,  
to lend assistance to all who have a role in Catholic Education  
in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

***All:*** Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.