

**St. Paul's Church**  
1800 Twelfth Street North  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33704-4042  
727-822-3481

March 4, 2026

Dear St. Paul Catholic School Families, Parishioners, and Members of our Greater Community,

It is with profound joy and deep gratitude that we share extraordinary news: Sister Joan Carberry, OSF, our beloved Assistant Principal, has been named the 2026 recipient of the *Lifetime Commitment to Catholic Education Award* by the National Catholic Education Association (NCEA). This prestigious national honor recognizes a lifetime of faithful service and outstanding dedication to Catholic education.

Sister Joan will be presented with this award by NCEA President and CEO Dr. Steven Cheeseman at the President's Dinner during the NCEA Annual Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota. To receive this honor, she will be accompanied by Sister Kathleen Stagnaro, OSF, Monsignor Robert Gibbons, Pastor of St. Paul's, Mr. Brendan Butcher, Principal of St. Paul Catholic School, Mr. Chris Pastura, the Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of St. Petersburg, and Mrs. Toni Johnson of the Office of Catholic Schools for the DOSP.

This recognition is not only a tribute to Sister Joan's personal vocation and tireless ministry but also a celebration of the enduring legacy of the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany, New York, whose commitment to Catholic education began here in Pinellas County when they founded St. Paul Catholic School in 1930. For nearly a century, the Sisters have faithfully served our school and parish community, forming generations of students in faith, knowledge, and virtue. Sister Joan stands as a living embodiment of that legacy, carrying forward the Franciscan charism of humility, peace, service, and joyful witness to the Gospel.

Throughout her years of ministry, Sister Joan has touched countless lives through her wisdom, compassion, and steadfast commitment to Catholic identity. Her leadership helps ensure that St. Paul Catholic School remains a place where academic excellence is rooted in faith and where each child is known, loved, and guided to grow in relationship with Christ.

We are extraordinarily blessed to serve alongside Sister Joan and to witness the profound impact of her vocation each day. This national recognition affirms what our community has long known: her life's work is a gift to Catholic education and to the Church.

Please join us in congratulating Sister Joan and in offering prayers of gratitude for her faithful service and for the continued ministry of the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany, whose presence has shaped St. Paul Catholic School for generations.

In the peace of Christ,



Monsignor Robert Gibbons  
Pastor, St. Paul's Catholic Church



Mr. Brendan L. Butcher  
Principal, St. Paul Catholic School