

## (February 1, 2005) Congressman Dan Lipinski Applauds Catholic Schools Week

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Lipinski Cosponsors Resolution Recognizing Catholic Education

WASHINGTON, DC - Today U.S. Rep. Dan Lipinski (IL- 3 rd) joined his colleagues in cosponsoring H.Res. 23, Honoring the Contributions of Catholic Schools. Congressman Lipinski celebrated Catholic Schools Week by acknowledging American Catholic schools and the top-quality, values-added education they provide.

Started in 1974, Catholic Schools Week recognizes the impact of Catholic schools in communities across the country and their continued reputation for excellence in providing strong academic and moral education.

"As a product of a Catholic education in my own community, I understand how important Catholic schools are in providing a spiritual, moral and intellectual foundation for students," stated Congressman Lipinski. "In the Chicago area alone, more than 105,000 young people are preparing for tomorrow at 276 Catholic elementary and high schools."

While speaking on the floor of the House of Representatives, Congressman Lipinski recalled his experience growing up in the Catholic School system. "I have fond memories of my teachers who provided me with the fundamentals of a good education that laid the groundwork for future academic achievements. But just as important, they instilled in me the belief that I should use my God-given abilities to contribute to society," said Lipinski. "In doing this they provided me with the inspiration for a career as an educator and as a public servant, just as they have inspired countless other millions of Americans to contribute to their country."

Lipinski continued, "Catholic schools not only work to encourage religious faith in students, but they also have faith that every student is endowed with God-given value, has something important to contribute to society, and deserves every opportunity to grow intellectually, physically, and spiritually."

"As we honor Catholic Schools we need to especially pay tribute to the more than 163,000 Catholic school teachers nationwide," praised Lipinski. "These dedicated sisters, priests, brothers, and lay teachers are the backbone of Catholic education. They sacrifice so much personally in order to provide a top-notch education that serves our children very well in preparing them for the future."

Lastly, Congressman Lipinski acknowledged the many activities going on throughout the district during Catholic Schools Week. At Saint Symphorosa and Saint Francis Xavier, for example, schools have worked hard to plan events such as Vocation appreciation, community ice cream socials, special liturgies, and Teacher and Student Appreciation. These activities honor teachers, students, and parents—all of whom make great contributions to the integrity and values of Catholic education.

