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PRESS RELEASE

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**Archdiocesan Catholic School Students Scoring
Two Grade Levels Above Peers on National Standardized Test**

ALBUQUERQUE - IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Wednesday, April 16, 2008--
The numbers are in ... the **Archdiocese of Santa Fe Catholic School students are scoring, on the average, two years above their respective grade levels in all core subject areas on the National Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) Standardized Tests.**

Each year the Archdiocesan Schools administer the ITBS to all of the 3rd, 5th and 8th graders. Over the past five years, the overwhelming trend in the areas of Reading, Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies is that Catholic School children achieve two to three years above their grade level. In addition to scoring well above their grade equivalent scores, the Archdiocesan students also score 25% to 30% above their peers in the same grade in schools at the National level. The ITBS has been in existence since 1935 and four million students across the country take the ITBS each year. The test is used in every state.

St. Pius X and St. Michaels High School students also perform very high on the ACT each year scoring at least 2.5 points higher than their New Mexico state public school counterparts. 98% of New Mexico Catholic high graduates attend the college of their choice and 95% graduate from those post-secondary institutions.

Sr Mary Klersey, MPF attributes these high levels of achievement to the high quality and dedicated teachers in each classroom. "Our teachers go above and beyond in implementing best school practices and providing strong morals and values in their classrooms". All Archdiocese of Santa Fe Schools are accredited by the Advanc-Ed/North Central Accreditation Agency that accredits schools in 30 states across the country, 65 countries internationally, and serves 15 million students.

The following are the Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe.

Albuquerque: Our Lady of the Assumption, Our Lady of the Annunciation, St Mary's, Holy Ghost, St Therese, Our Lady of Fatima, Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Heaven, San Felipe, St. Charles, and St Pius X High School

Rio Rancho: St Thomas Aquinas

Santa Cruz: Holy Cross

Santa Fe: Santo Niño, St Michaels High School

Belen: St Mary's

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* NCEA (National Catholic Education Association) code of ethics prevents member Catholic schools from ranking its schools.

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