

August 4, 2022
St. John Marie Vianney

Dear Bishops and Brother Priests,

Greetings! Recently, Cardinal Sean appointed me to a new position as Chaplain to the Catholic Schools Office of the Archdiocese with specific responsibility for the *Lumen Verum Academy*, a new hybrid-homeschool, and renewed my role as Spiritual Director & Liaison to Catholic Homeschooling Families for the Archdiocese of Boston. This new appointment certainly recognizes the tremendous growth in and the decision by many Catholic families to utilize the option of homeschooling.

The U.S. Census Bureau notes that nationally, homeschooling doubled between the 2019-2020 and the 2020-2021 school years from 5.4% to 11.1% of all children. In Massachusetts during that same period, homeschooling increased from 1.5% to 12.1% (1.). This means today there are 17,000 children homeschooled in Massachusetts. And although this likely acknowledges a *covid-effect*, there is no question this very likely represents a very large number of Catholic families within the Archdiocese of Boston.

Therefore, to reach out to these families, I have two initial goals:

1. *To establish connection with as many Catholic homeschooling families in our parishes as possible to form a network for regular communication with them and to allow them to connect with other families within their local parish and wider communities.*
2. *To organize regular spiritual & social opportunities for these families to come together in the various regions of our Archdiocese - and when possible - in the parish setting.*

To move forward, may I humbly ask for your support? To begin to accomplish the first goal, I'd ask if you would occasionally run brief notices in your parish bulletin making parishioners aware of the Office for Homeschooling and my contact information.

As well, I'd ask if you would assist me by promoting future gatherings of homeschooling families coordinated through this Office as you receive future mailings (*i.e. for monthly Masses, Children's Eucharistic Holy Hours, Days of Recollection, etc.*). I have included a first bulletin notice with this letter for a Zoom Evening for new parents to homeschooling on the evening of Tuesday, August 30th, if you would run this in your bulletin on the weekends of 8/14, 8/21 and 8/28.

If I can at all answer any questions or you might offer me your wisdom and advice, please reach out to me at anytime: eriley@rcab.org. And please be assured of my gratitude and prayers through the powerful intercessions of St. John Marie Vianney!

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Fr. Ed Riley

Bulletin Announcement for 8/14, 8/21 and 8/28:

From the Office for Homeschooling, Archdiocese of Boston: Thinking about homeschooling? Know someone who is? If you are new to home schooling, thinking about it, or know someone who is in either of those situations, you are invited to attend a Zoom meeting to talk about how to get started. Several experienced Catholic homeschooling parents will discuss letters of intent, legal issues, HSLDA, curricula, how you keep your home & marriage going while homeschooling, and more. If you would like to attend this Zoom meeting on Tuesday, 8/30, at 7:30pm please register at: www.chimehomeschool.com/getting-started-at-homeschooling-meeting/

For more information, please feel free to contact Fr. Ed Riley, Spiritual Director for the Office for Homeschooling at: eriley@rcab.org.

Footnote:

1. <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2021/03/homeschooling-on-the-rise-during-covid-19-pandemic.html>