

# Celebrating Catholic Schools Week

## Catholic Schools in America Archbishop John Carroll

### Father of American Catholic Education

Pope Pius VI made John Carroll the first bishop in the United States in 1789. That same year, George Washington became our first president. The two men were close friends and true patriots.

About 25,000 Catholics lived in the United States at that time. They lived in places far from each other. Only about thirty priests were in the country.

The pope asked Bishop John Carroll to guide the growth of the Catholic Church in the new nation.

John Carroll believed in Catholic schools. In these schools children would learn about Jesus and about their religion. He worked with Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton to open Catholic schools in Baltimore. With his blessing, religious sisters began Visitation School. In 1789, Archbishop Carroll founded Georgetown University.

