

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.



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Catholic Schools Week Catholic Schools In America

Archbishop John Carroll
(1735-1815)

Lesson 1

Share

Objective To discuss experiences of doing new things

1 Introduce

Sharing Experiences

- Invite the students to tell you about a time when they tried to do something that they had never done before. (*Answers will vary.*)
- Explain that when we try something new, we have to prepare for the task. We also have to understand that we might not be successful the first few times we try. (*Give examples.*)

Hear and Believe

Objective To learn about Archbishop John Carroll

2 Develop

Discussing the Story

- Direct the students' attention to the painting of Archbishop John Carroll on page 383.
- Explain to the children that today they are going to learn about how Archbishop John Carroll helped to support Catholic schools in America.
- Invite volunteers to read aloud one paragraph each of Archbishop John Carroll. Define any unfamiliar words for the students.
- Ask what Archbishop John Carroll did to support Catholic schools in America. (*He believed in Catholic schools. He worked with Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton to open Catholic schools in Baltimore. He opened what is now Georgetown University.*)
- Explain that because of the work of Archbishop John Carroll and other people in Catholic history, Catholic schools today teach children the many skills they need in America today.

ENRICHING THE LESSON

For More Information

- Search the Internet and print resources to find out more about Archbishop John Carroll.
- Discover more about Catholic schools by going to ncea.org, the Web site of the National Catholic Educational Association.
- To learn more about what the Catholic Church in the United States is doing to help parents, teachers, and other supporters of Catholic education, go to usccb.org, the Web site of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.
- For additional Catholic Schools Week resources, go to RCLBenziger.com.