



OFFICE OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Superintendent of Schools

November 17, 2008

Dear Principals and Presidents,

On December 1, 1958, the Archdiocese of Chicago and its families suffered what was arguably the most tragic moment in our schools' history in the Our Lady of the Angels School fire.

Included in this notice is [background about the fire](#). We encourage you to use this for your own information, not reading it directly to the students but adapting it in an age-appropriate manner. We are very sensitive to the [survivors and their families](#) who continue to remember.

In addition to our prayers, the OLA school fire continues to call us to vigilance. Please look again at [what we can together do now for our children](#). There is, of course, one thing we can do fifty years later for the families of Our Lady of the Angels and their teachers: we can remember and we can pray.

We invite all to pray with us as close to 2:30 PM on December 1 as your schedule allows. Please do invite your pastor to join you. The prayer service is designed to be adapted for larger group or small, for PA or classroom use. No matter what your group or your space, we hope you will join this [prayer](#).

God bless you and hold you safe and close,

Sr. M. Paul McCaughey, O.P.
and committee

Links for printing and reference:

- [Background about the fire](#)
- [Survivors and families website](#)
- [Fire Safety Information](#)
- [Prayer Service](#)