



Making Schools Work Better for all Children

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As President Bush this week puts an emphasis on the ability of faith-based institutions to help those among us, we were remiss [yesterday](#) in not pointing out that one of a number of increasing choices available to parents of all religious persuasions are the 16,288 Catholic Schools available throughout the country.

Today is *National Catholic School Appreciation Day* -- a day to recognize the contributions to education made by those schools. And tomorrow is an appreciation day for the 167,000 Catholic School teachers who serve the 2.6 million students in their schools, at salaries far below those in public schools.

Catholic Schools, Yeshivas, Islamic Academies and Christian Schools all provide important opportunities for parents looking not only for religious training, but for a better learning experience for their children. These schools fill a need for educational diversity, with more than 45 percent of Catholic Schools located in an urban or inner-city environment and an equal number of those schools having a waiting list.

Without the efforts of these schools, and other faith-based educational institutions, millions of children would be left with no alternative to the educational monopoly in their communities and our nation would be poorer for it. Find out more at <http://www.ncea.org>.

SAVE THE DATE!

Join CER for its **Third Annual Leaders Forum**, "Lessons From the Front: Grassroots Spring Into Action" on March 28, in Washington, DC. For more information, contact CER at (800) 521-2118.



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