



ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

January 23, 2014

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

Dear Director:

I am happy to greet you and share some important information with you. I also wish to thank you for your commitment in providing a catechetical program in the Polish language at your Polish language and culture school located in the Archdiocese of Chicago.

I have asked the Archdiocese of Chicago's Office of Catechesis and Youth Ministry to work with you to ensure that all Polish schools offering catechetical formation and sacramental preparation have the proper catechetical resources and support. After a careful evaluation of Polish catechetical programs, I have made a decision to officially recognize a catechetical program to be taught in the independent Polish language and culture schools.

Every year, the management of Polish language and culture schools will be required to apply to the Archdiocesan Office for Catechesis and Youth Ministry for a license to offer the approved catechetical program in their school. Individual catechists are to be certified by the Archdiocese of Chicago to teach religion classes at Polish language schools. There will be a \$3.00 fee for every student attending the Polish catechetical programs to offset the cost of supervising these programs beginning with the 2014-15 school year. The fee for the license will be collected by the Office of Catechesis and Youth Ministry and is payable every year. Each independent Polish school will be required to adhere to Policy #1800, "Catechesis in Private Schools," found in the Archdiocese of Chicago's *Policies and Procedures, Book III, The Teaching Office of the Church*.

Instilling faith in the young is an undertaking that involves the cooperation of gifted catechists, concerned adults, devoted priests and faith-filled parents. Each year thousands of children and youth participate in catechetical formation and sacramental preparation programs through your schools and parishes of the Archdiocese of Chicago in the Polish language. This number suggests that great faith is present in the Polish community. It also creates a need to provide catechetical programs that share a common vision, direction, and purpose in all of the nearly forty locations that serve the faith needs of our young.

I am grateful for your care in sustaining the integrity and uniformity of a comprehensive Catholic catechetical program in your schools. May God bless you as you continue sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. Bóg Zapłać.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago