

### Alive in Christ Initiative

The inclusion of Christopher at Mary Queen of Peace embraces Catholic Social Teaching and is consistent with Arch Bishop Carlson's Alive in Christ Initiative. The Arch Bishop, in his remarks delivered at John F. Kennedy Catholic High School in 2012 outlining the priorities of the "Alive In Christ!" Mission Initiative communicates the following points for his sixth priority "to maintain, and renew, our commitment to help students who are poor or marginalized reach their full potential as children of God:"

- We can't rest until every child who wants a Catholic education is given equal access to the opportunities our schools and faith formation programs provide to help students achieve their full potential as God's children.
- We must also extend a warm welcome to .....families whose children have special needs.
- We need to support and expand all efforts to meet the special education and faith formation needs of children who have disabilities or other special needs.
- We should be proud of our past achievements, but we should not rest on our laurels.
- Here is a video of a program Arch Bishop Carlson started in South Dakota:  
<http://m.youtube.com/watch?v=3e4VPOnPanA&feature=youtu.be>

The Arch Bishop's comments provide a broader context for assistance and a mandate to do new things. A fully inclusive approach is perhaps new in St. Louis. However, this approach is not uncommon in other Archdiocese and parishes and has been quite successful for the children with disabilities, the parish, the teachers, and fellow students.