

January 19, 2011

Dear Parents, Parishioners and Staff:

Since July 2010, Kenosha pastors and parish leaders have worked diligently to develop a model for Catholic elementary school education in the City of Kenosha and the surrounding area which supports the vitality and options available for a Catholic education. The goal of this collaboration is to provide a regional model for Catholic education which is accessible, affordable, and available to all families in the Kenosha area. Furthermore, the collaboration must present for approval to the Archbishop of Milwaukee a model for Catholic Education that is truly collaborative among the parishes and Catholic schools in the city.

The Kenosha Collaboration for Catholic Education is in the process of developing a proposal to present to the Archbishop which outlines the facilities, funding, and governance involved with maintaining K-8 options in conjunction with the existing K-12 model provided by St. Joseph Catholic Academy within the City of Kenosha. The original timeframe for the development and presentation of this model was to be Catholic Schools Week 2011 (January 30th – February 5th). Although this task remains a work-in-progress, the Collaboration remains optimistic that an approved model will be in place for the 2011-12 school year. At a meeting on January 18, the Collaboration's Steering Committee agreed, by consensus, to the following key points:

- K-8 educational programming will be conducted at two sites within the City of Kenosha. These campuses are the present St. Mary and Holy Rosary school sites. Other parish schools may be utilized for other educational opportunities to be further discussed, including an Early Childhood Development Center, lifelong faith formation, retreat facilities, and/or partnering with area Catholic universities for continuing education.
- A shared funding model which includes financial support from each of the 10 parishes in the Kenosha region. The specific formula for financial support for all of Catholic education within the Kenosha region is being developed collaboratively by members of the Kenosha Collaboration, St. Joseph Catholic Academy, and the Archdiocese of Milwaukee in order to assure an equitable assessment of the parishes based on their financial strengths and existing obligations.
- A three-year commitment from each of the parishes in the Kenosha region to support Catholic education in order to assure fiscal stability in the near future.
- A shared marketing venture starting with Catholic Schools Week among the existing schools in the region focusing on the strengths of Catholic education. Open houses at the two campus sites should be continued as planned, registrations for the next school year (2011-12) can commence, with the understanding that tuition has not yet been set for these sites.

In the next few weeks, the Collaboration will be developing a formal presentation of the proposed plan to Archbishop Listecki. This plan will consist of: a letter of commitment from each of the pastors from the Kenosha region, a facilities plan, a funding model, a system of governance, and an education plan – including a plan to hire faculty and staff. A name for the collaborative system will also be developed at that time. It is our priority to keep you informed through updates from the Communications Committee, and future Parent/Public Forums will be held to inform stakeholders of our progress as this endeavor continues.

These decisions have been difficult and have been made in the best interest of sustaining high quality Catholic education for the students and families in Kenosha. We ask for your prayerful support of this effort.

Sincerely,

The Kenosha Collaboration for Catholic Education