



School Study Timeline

Spring 2008 - Consultants visit schools and meet with pastors and school administrators.

Summer 2008 - Research community demographics and analyze school trends.

Fall 2008 - Spring 2009 - Consultants meet seven times with advisory groups, conduct two focus groups, and refine strategic direction.

School Study Goals

A successful effort will lead to the long-term vitality and viability of our Catholic schools. The ultimate goal is to ensure that schools are:

- distinctly Catholic
- academically excellent
- fiscally stable

May 2009

Strategic Planning for Catholic Schools

Catholic Diocese of Kansas City ~ St. Joseph

MESSAGE FROM BISHOP FINN

Dear Friends in Christ,

Because the mission of Catholic school education is such an important work of the Church, we determined more than a year ago to go forward with the development of a comprehensive *Strategic Planning Study for Catholic Schools*. This effort has brought together people from throughout the diocese to give serious consideration to the future of our Catholic schools. With the benefit of counsel from wide-ranging groups, we have assessed our current situation and begun to provide a plan to strengthen our schools for future generations.

For over 12 months, two fine groups – the Strategic Planning Committee and a Steering Committee – have given countless hours to studying, listening and imagining ways to secure the stability of our schools and help every school fulfill its potential. The need for this is clear. We live in an increasingly secular and materialistic world. Our children and youth must be grounded in their faith so that they can live full, happy and holy lives in Christ. We also want to make sure that Catholic schools remain both financially stable, and affordable.

Throughout the past year I have paid careful attention to the thoughtful input that I have received. Many individuals have written to me. Groups of parish and school leaders have submitted constructive comments. Many of your parishes and schools have devoted considerable energy to discussing these various proposals, even as they are still taking shape.

Given the scope of this project and the seriousness of our common desire, I have asked our Director of Planning to form a number of task forces, who will spend time in the next months reviewing each of the important recommendations of the emerging *Strategic Plan* and identifying practical ways to implement its proposals. In some cases, I expect, they will affirm the practical recommendations that have already enjoyed strong consensus. In other areas they will begin to complete needed details for a responsible “testing” of the *Plan*, or they might recommend helpful modifications.

This *Strategic Planning Study* is very important to us all, and I want us to get it “right.” The input from these task forces will be indispensable to me in making a fully-informed decision.

Please continue to pray for the success of our strategic planning effort.

In Christ and Mary,

Most Reverend Robert W. Finn
Bishop of Kansas City-St. Joseph



Catholic Schools for the Third Millennium Must Be...

Distinctly Catholic • Academically Excellent • Fiscally Stable

INTERIM STRATEGIC PLANNING TASK FORCES

Eight task forces are at work developing clearly-defined action steps for areas of the *Strategic Plan for Catholic Schools*. Given the scope of the plan, the groups will weigh options, consider local realities, test the impact of recommendations, and develop specific implementation steps. Bishop Finn has requested this information to help him make a final determination about the *Strategic Plan for Catholic Schools*.

Each task force drew members from a diverse group of experts from the business, the nonprofit sector, and diocesan parish and school administration. Teams are focused on offering solutions that bring clarity to:

- **Supporting Roles for Parishes without Schools and Interest in Covenant Relationships with Existing Schools**

- **Supporting Roles for Parishes Located in Communities Outside of Kansas City and St. Joseph that Do Not Have Schools**

- **Fiscal Stability and Implementation of the Preferred Funding Model**

- **Training and Development of Local School Boards**

- **Strategic Enrollment Marketing and Communications at the Diocesan Level and for Local Schools**

- **Training and Strategic Fund Development Planning for Local Schools**

- **Training and Strategic Plan Development for Local Schools**

- **Diocesan Fund Development for Tuition Grants and School Support**

"The expertise available in the Catholic community is an important and ready resource for the work of strategic planning and decision-making," explained David Woolwine, Diocesan Director of Planning. "For a project of this scope, we are very blessed."



"The fact that Bishop Finn requested the task forces and that qualified members responded so quickly points to the value placed on Catholic school education," said Woolwine. "We anticipate that each task force will have recommendations for the Bishop by mid-August and that their work will be of great value in making a final determination about the strategic plan." ∞