Diocese of Colorado Springs – Douglas County
New School Catholic Study Newsletter #1

The Call for Catholic Education

The future of our Church lies with our youth. To that end, the Church must form and educate them in faith, spirit, mind and body. It has been the mission of Catholic schools in the Diocese of Colorado Springs and throughout our nation to do this very thing. Catholic schools are among the most effective means we have to shape the future with faith, hope and leadership.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in their recent statement, *Renewing Our Commitment to Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools in the Third Millennium*, emphasize their continuing support of Catholic schools and said, "*…the time has come to revisit and reaffirm our commitment to Catholic elementary and secondary schools as invaluable instruments in proclaiming the Good News from one generation to the next…We are convinced that Catholic schools continue to be 'the most effective means available to the Church for the education of children and young people' who are the future of the Church (To Teach As Jesus Did, no. 118).*"

Why Are We Looking At A New Catholic School?

In fulfilling the calling of the Church and its mission for Catholic education, we are examining the need for a new Catholic elementary school in Douglas County. In past years there has been an interest in a new school, but the demographics simply did not support its potential. General and Catholic population growth in the county over the past ten years plus projected increases in the future now provide an opportunity for us to take another look at the potential for a Catholic school.

What is Involved In Studying This Need?

Before we can seriously consider undertaking the planning and opening of a new Catholic school, we need to objectively measure the level of interest among families and determine the enrollment potential. In addition, we must carefully assess the potential impact a new school may have on enrollment at existing Catholic schools. The goal is to keep all of them strong and fully enrolled, even with the possible addition of a new school.

An enrollment study with market research has been commissioned by the Diocese of Colorado Springs and will be conducted in collaboration with Pax Christi Parish and St. Mark Parish communities. The nationally recognized firm, Meitler, is partnering with our two parishes and the

Diocese to conduct this study. Meitler has extensive experience with Catholic elementary schools and new school planning across the country.

As part of the study, a market research survey will be available online to parish and local community families with pre-school and school-age children to assess parents' willingness to enroll their children at the proposed new school. The survey will take place in September of this year with a final presentation of findings in late October.

What Could The New Catholic School Be Like?

The proposal is for the proposed school to begin with a prekindergarten and kindergarten and then build one grade at a time through 8th grade. Strong Catholic identity with high quality, competitive academics and enrichment activities will be the hallmark of the proposed school. Rigorous academic instruction will be grounded in and permeated with the daily living and learning of our Catholic faith. It will provide innovative learning opportunities for the children, led by qualified teachers and administrators.

Where And When Would The New School Open?

A comprehensive data study, market research survey, and property analysis will assess the potential location of the new school. Timing to open the proposed school has not been determined at this time and will depend on enrollment demand and funding

What Are Next Steps In Planning A New School

If the data and market research study show that opening a new PK-8 Catholic school is feasible with sufficient enrollment potential, next steps would involve developing a funding and facilities plan along with a timeline for action.