



# C.A.R.E. News

Newsletter – October 2006

[www.CareNews.org](http://www.CareNews.org)

## ***What Is C.A.R.E.?***

Catholics Aligning Regionally for Education (C.A.R.E.) is the name that has been chosen for the process currently in place to study how our four parishes (St. Ann, Assumption, St. Margaret Mary, and St. Therese Little Flower) can work together to create a regional Catholic Elementary school that will ultimately serve all four parishes. The C.A.R.E. team consists of Pastors, Principals/Educators, Parish Staff Members and Parents from our four parishes working together to thoroughly study this area to determine what may work best for us as a group. We value Catholic education and we genuinely C.A.R.E. about all of our students. Our goal is to provide a quality Catholic Education at an affordable price in a caring environment close to home to enable any parent desiring a Catholic Education for their child (ren) to be able to do so.

Given the changing make up of neighborhoods and parishioners of our four parishes, a committee was formed to study the future of Catholic elementary schools in these four parishes. This Steering Committee, consisting of the four pastors and the four school principals, then formed five ad hoc study groups. These study groups were commissioned in the spring of 2006 and have been working throughout the summer months in their respective areas.

The Communications Group is responsible for all news and information to be communicated to parents and parishioners. We have established a process to help insure that everyone will receive updates on this effort at the same time. One of the ways we will be doing this is by way of newsletters like this. Initially we plan to issue them monthly on the first weekend of each month. These newsletters will be placed in the bulletin monthly and also on the C.A.R.E. News web site.

## ***CareNews.Org***

The C.A.R.E. News web site has been created at [www.CareNews.org](http://www.CareNews.org) to help you keep informed on progress in the C.A.R.E. effort. Here you'll find copies of all official communications as they're released as well as some information previously communicated in the early stages of this effort (Archives). You can also register to have all communications delivered directly to you by email. Additionally, there is a feedback tool where you can submit your thoughts and ideas, as well as ask questions on the CARE effort. [Note: A feedback box is also available in all four churches.]

## ***Ad Hoc Study Groups***

As previously mentioned, five Ad Hoc Study Groups have been created, comprised of two to three members from each of the four parishes. These groups are currently looking into various aspects of structuring a regional Catholic elementary school that will ultimately serve our four parishes. The five study groups are ...

### ***Governance***

The governance study group is currently looking at different models for governance (used locally and regionally) and consulting with the Archdiocesan school office, the NCEA, and other school alliances. They are looking at any relevant elements of governance to determine the most effective and beneficial governing structure for a regional elementary school that will serve our four parishes.

### ***Facilities***

The facilities study group is charged with determining the most efficient use of St. Margaret Mary, St. Ann, St. Therese Little Flower, and Assumption's campuses. To do this, they are studying and updating a facilities survey that was completed in 2005 and will use this updated survey to prepare options/scenarios for facility use in the future. Some of the many factors being considered are such items as capacity, air conditioning, technology, handicapped accessibility, alternative uses for facilities and, of course, transportation issues.

### ***Parish Life / Religious Education***

The parish life/religious education study group is studying the relationship between parish life and the Catholic elementary school student. They're working to determine how we can keep the key relationships of the student/family with the various feeder parishes given the existence of one school serving all four parishes. Elements being considered include sacrament instruction/preparation and sacrament celebration, parish activities for youth and family, fundraising and stewardship.

### ***Finance***

The finance study group is charged with determining the most effective and beneficial financial structure for a Catholic elementary school serving all four parishes. To do this, they are examining different models for finance, and

updating related information gathered from the past St. Margaret Mary Deanery study, as well as consulting with the Archdiocesan school office and other schools that serve multiple parishes.

**Communications**

The communications committee will serve as the interface between the study group effort and the community, ensuring information related to the accomplishments and progress of all committees is accurately and routinely communicated to the parents and parishioners of our four parishes, and to the community at large. To accomplish this they have been working on establishing an overall communication process and the elements needed to deliver any and all updates.

**So What Happens Now?**

To date, nothing has been decided. Over the next few months, the C.A.R.E. ad hoc teams will continue their efforts to study their respective areas. At the end of their studies, they will report their results back to the pastors & principals on the Steering Team. The Steering Team has also requested that each study group provide a recommendation on what approach(es) might work best for our four parishes in their area of study. These reports are due in to the Steering Team no later than the end of January, 2007. After all of the reports are in, the steering team will then deliberate on the possible options presented to them and develop a proposal for our four parishes to be presented to the archdiocesan school board for consideration and feedback. After addressing any concerns the school board may have with the proposal, it must then be forwarded for final approval by Archbishop Pilarczyk.

So, as you can see, there's still a lot of work to be done. Where will we end up? What will it look like? We truly do not know yet. When will it happen? We do not know that either. To paraphrase an earlier archdiocesan update ... Will Catholic elementary school be different? Most definitely. Will it be better? With God's grace it will. Change is rarely

easy ... especially when the details of the change are unknown. But change also provides opportunity. With a new beginning, we have a chance to correct problems that may exist, and make improvements that we couldn't do on our own. Let's all work together to continue to provide the BEST affordable Catholic education!

**Steering Committee Members**

**Father Bill Kennedy** – Pastor - Assumption - the oldest priest actively serving in the St. Margaret Mary Deanery.

**William Walborn** – Principal – Assumption – 31 years of service to Catholic education.

**Father Robert Goebel** – Pastor – Little Flower – Purcell grad; ordained 32 years ago.

**Linda Westendorf** – Principal – Little Flower – grew up in Clifton; a McAuley graduate.

**Father Tom Dennemann** – Pastor – St. Ann – also a Purcell grad; ordained 33 years ago.

**Marianne Rosemond** – Principal – St. Ann – moved to St. Ann in '99 after teaching at Little Flower for 15 years.

**Father Jerry Gardner** – Pastor – St. Margaret Mary – Moeller grad; ordained 27 years ago.

**Pat Kennedy** – Past Principal – St. Margaret Mary – principal at Little Flower for 26 years.

The facilitator for this group is **Jim Brown** – professional organizational consultant for the past 21 years.

Learn more about the Steering Team at CareNews.org or use the feedback box to request a biography sheet.

**The Ad Hoc Study Group Team Members**

	<b>Assumption</b>	<b>Little Flower</b>	<b>St. Ann</b>	<b>St. Margaret Mary</b>
<b>Governance</b>	Annette Braun Carol Anderson	Scott Middendorf Betty Cepluch	Nancy Gamm Jack Phelps	Paula Link
<b>Facilities</b>	Mike Rapien Rodney Rosenacker	Jim Krause Jim Rothenbuhler Jerry Armbruster	Tim Clifford	Joe Hollman
<b>Parish Life</b>	Joni Brickweg Debbie Houser	Kris Krimm Bill Dauer	Diane Ferrier Cindy Lohner	Michael Collins Wilma McGlasson
<b>Finance</b>	Renee Riga Bill Kolb	Pat Folz Mike Ruhe	Alan Gabriel	
<b>Communications</b>	Bill Rocklin Chris Krebs	Terry Crooker	Kelly Clifford Mike Lienhart	Vanessa Diegmuller