



C.A.R.E. News

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A New “Regional” School – We can do it!

What is a “regional” school?

On Thursday, March 22, 2007, Fr. Joe Atcher (Vicar of Education – Archdiocese of Louisville) addressed that very question in a presentation to 200+ parishioners from our four parishes. Fr. Atcher quickly covered the four options available to us: 1) Do nothing, 2) Merge, 3) Consolidate or 4) Create a “regional” school. Fr. Atcher then proceeded to detail why the Archdiocese of Louisville chose the “regional” school approach and discussed the process they used to create five “regional” schools from 17 parish schools.

What is different about a “regional” model? What makes the “regional” school more attractive than a merger or a consolidation? As Fr. Atcher explained, mergers and consolidations both end up with the control being wherever the school lands. As such, parishes often feel like “winners” and “losers”. Their regional school model “starts from the premise that all parishes will be involved in the decision making. While each parish gives up its own school, it creates a new school in which all have an equal voice and an equal investment. Together they do things, and decide things from the name, to colors, to mascots. They do not just appropriate what already is at one of the sites. This way all are invested.” He also indicated that regional schools tend to be more stable, unlike mergers and consolidation, which historically have led to more mergers and consolidation.

There was very strong support expressed for this “regional” model during the meeting and in comments received afterwards. Additionally, several people requested that we push forward with this effort to avoid “having to have another one of our schools close.”

Note: For those who were unable to attend, Fr. Atcher’s entire presentation is online at www.Carenews.org.

So where do we go from here?

The Steering Committee was encouraged by the very positive responses heard at the presentation and have decided to fully support the development of a regional school for our four parishes. To that end, they have issued the following statement:

“As the Steering Committee comprised of the four parishes, St. Ann, Assumption, Little Flower and St. Margaret Mary, we are unanimously recommending the acceptance of a regional parochial elementary school model. We are also asking for approval (if not already given) from the Education, Finance and Pastoral Councils of our individual parishes.

We will then begin working on the number of details and steps necessary to complete the process of creating a new entity with an agreement and also gain approval of the Archdiocesan Education Commission by April, 2008.”

The above statement has been presented to and approved by each parish’s councils and commissions.

Note: To learn more about the C.A.R.E. effort and to have every C.A.R.E. newsletter emailed to you automatically as they are issued, go to www.CareNews.org.