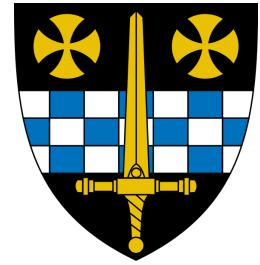


# CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS REGIONALIZATION IN THE NORTH HILLS OF PITTSBURGH



The Catholic Elementary Schools Regionalization process is part of the overall On Mission for The Church Alive! initiative. Together with the strategic planning for parishes, the goal of both is to grow the Church through the salvation of souls.

ON MISSION FOR  
THE  
CHURCH  
ALIVE!

Strategic Planning for Parishes

Regionalization of Elementary Schools



## WHY ARE CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS IMPORTANT?

- Catholic schools form both the minds and hearts of the young people they serve.
- Academic formation prepares students to meet the demands of higher education.
- Spiritual formation encourages students to live virtuous lives and strengthens them in a daily relationship with Jesus.
- Catholic schools also support a family life rooted in faith.
- The goal of Catholic schools is to do everything possible to set their students firmly on the path to heaven.

## WHY REGIONALIZE THE CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS IN THE NORTH HILLS?

- Student populations at a number of Catholic elementary schools in the North Hills region have declined significantly.
- This has strained budgets, leading to tuition increases and the closing of some schools.
- Several North Hills pastors have asked Bishop Zubik for assistance in developing a sustainable model for schools
- The result of regionalization will allow the schools to more effectively fulfill their mission and grow the Church.

## WHAT WILL CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS REGIONALIZATION LOOK LIKE?

- Regionalization involves two complementary components: a new regional administrative structure **AND** new models for existing schools.

### 1. NEW REGIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

- No school will be the ministry of just one parish or a few parishes. Instead, each school will be a ministry of and supported by every parish in that region.
- While each school will have a principal, a regional administrator will oversee operations



- Benefits include:
  - Comprehensive and uniform instructional programs
  - Strengthened Catholic identity and mission
  - Stabilized enrollment and tuition costs
  - Collaboration in fundraising, technology, athletics, etc.
  - More effective use of resources, including facilities

### 2. NEW MODELS FOR EXISTING SCHOOLS

- Through regionalization, no school will belong to just one parish.
- While some schools will see little change, others will undergo various kinds of reconfiguration to address declining enrollment and increased tuition
- Task forces consisting of the pastors of parishes with existing schools and other members of those communities will design the models for the following school groupings:

#### TASK FORCE GROUP 1

Saint Alexis School  
Saint Alphonsus School

#### TASK FORCE GROUP 2

Saint Bonaventure School  
Saint Mary of the Assumption School  
Saint Ursula School

#### TASK FORCE GROUP 3

Assumption School  
Northside Catholic School

#### TASK FORCE GROUP 4

Saint Sebastian School  
Saint Teresa of Avila School

*\*While part of the regionalization process, Christ the Divine Teacher Academy and Saint James School are not part of a Task Force Group.*

## PLANNING TO DATE

1. The diocese and parishes are forming a non-profit corporation, North Hills Regional Catholic Elementary Schools, Inc., for the purpose of operating and administering Catholic school programs from preschool through eighth grade.
2. The diocesan Schools Office, principals and union officials have met with teachers to review plans and receive their feedback
3. Pastors of parishes with schools in the North Hills have held meetings with their parish pastoral councils and finance councils.

### PARISHES IN THE NORTH HILLS REGION FOR CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS:

*An asterisk (\*) denotes a parish with a parish school or a parish that supports a previously merged school.*

All Saints, Etna		Saint John XXIII, North Side
Assumption, Bellevue*		Saint Joseph, O'Hara Township*
Good Samaritan, Ambridge		Saint Juan Diego, Sharpsburg*
Holy Spirit, Millvale		Saint Mary, Aleppo
Holy Wisdom, North Side/Spring Hill*		Saint Mary of the Assumption, Glenshaw*
Incarnation of the Lord, North Side*		Saint Nicholas, Millvale
Most Holy Name of Jesus, Troy Hill*		Saint Peter, North Side*
Risen Lord, Marshall-Shadeland*	Saint Bonaventure, Glenshaw*	Saint Pio of Pietrelcina, Blawnox/Harmar*
Sacred Heart, Emsworth	Saint Catherine of Sweden, Wildwood	Saint Richard, Richland Township
Saint Alexis, Wexford*	Saint Cyril of Alexandria, Brighton Heights*	Saint Sebastian, Ross Township*
Saint Aloysius, Reserve Township*	Saint James, Sewickley*	Saint Scholastica, Aspinwall*
Saint Alphonsus, Wexford*	Saints John and Paul, Franklin Park	Saint Teresa of Avila, Perrysville*
Saint Athanasius, West View	Saint John Neumann, Franklin Park	Saint Ursula, Allison Park*

## NEXT STEPS

1. Task forces will be formed for the four school groups in the region to create proposed models. The pastors of the parishes in each group will appoint the task force members. These task forces will meet beginning the week of **October 31, 2016**.
2. The models will be presented to parents of parish school students through an online feedback survey beginning **November 17, 2016**.
3. Task forces will again meet to review the survey results and parent feedback and present present proposals to pastors by **December 2, 2016**.
4. Parent meetings will be held the week of **December 5, 2016** for each task force group to share the final proposals.
5. Final proposals will then be sent to the Schools office and be presented to Bishop Zubik before the end of the year.

More information will be shared as plans continue to develop. Thank you for your prayers for our schools and for our young people.

**The Catholic Elementary Schools Regionalization process will eventually take place throughout the Diocese of Pittsburgh as part of the overall On Mission for The Church Alive! initiative.**