



Diocese of Pittsburgh
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Office of the Bishop

June 12, 2020

Very Reverend Kris D. Stubna
Saint Paul Cathedral
108 North Dithridge Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Dear Father Stubna:

On May 21, 2020, you submitted to me the recommendations of the Pittsburgh-East Regional Catholic Elementary Schools, Inc. Board of Directors to close Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament School. It is my understanding that the board's recommendation came after careful study of financial and demographic data, student enrollment trends, parish consultation and other information with the intention of creating long-term stability for Catholic school education in the Pittsburgh-East Region. In your letter, you indicate that the continuing decline in enrollment and significant financial challenges has led the board to conclude there was no opportunity for long-term sustainability for the school to continue. Compounding the existing financial and enrollment issues is the devastating economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic that has already been felt throughout the region.

These decisions are difficult ones, but I do appreciate the financial and demographic realities and the importance of taking significant steps to strengthen the ability in the region to support Catholic education for the long term. You note that this recommendation is consistent with the board's long-term strategic plan for affordability, accessibility and sustainability in the East Region for Catholic school education.

After prayerful consideration, with heartfelt sadness, and on behalf of the Member Board, I accept your recommendation. Permission is granted to close Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament School at the end of the 2019-2020 school year.

Given the importance of Catholic schools, I know you will encourage current school families and parishioners to continue their support for Catholic education thus providing stability for the programs that continue. I recognize the wonderful contributions of teachers and staff at Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament School who dedicated themselves to educating our children in the Catholic faith and of the many school families and parishioners who have worked diligently over the past number of years in support of the school.

Thank you for your assurance that current students at Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament School will be assisted in every way possible to enroll in another Catholic school. I trust that the neighboring Catholic schools will open wide their doors to welcome the students affected by this decision.

Grateful for our continued efforts together in being *On Mission for The Church Alive!*, and for our belief that "Nothing is Impossible with God," I am

Your brother in Christ,

Most Reverend David A. Zubik
Bishop of Pittsburgh

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