



ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS

Office of Communications and Planning

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 4, 2017

Media Contact:

Gabe Jones

314.792.7557

gabejones@archstl.org

Renaissance in Catholic Education Continues in 2017-2018

ST. LOUIS – For several months, Archbishop Robert J. Carlson, Bishop Mark S. Rivituso, Superintendent of Catholic Education Dr. Kurt Nelson, and other archdiocesan leaders have been assessing school planning efforts underway in the various deaneries of the Archdiocese of St. Louis. Over the last year a change in Catholic education has begun, notably in the City of St. Louis and in North County.

This vision for a rebirth – a renaissance – of Catholic education as presented by Archbishop Carlson in his message, *Alive in Christ!* a pastoral letter on education, has involved engaging changes occurring in the schools, confronting the challenges presented by these changes, and offering new school choices for parents and families seeking Catholic education for their children.

Some recent changes in regard to two elementary schools – one in the city and another in North County – have prompted the Catholic Education Office to meet some new challenges in the 2017-18 academic year.

With decreasing school enrollment over the last three school years, low re-enrollment for next school year, and a significant turnover in school staff, Archbishop Carlson approved a plan submitted by the Catholic Education Office for St. Louis the King School to cease operations at the St. Louis the King site and combine with the other archdiocesan elementary schools at St. Cecilia School, Most Holy Trinity School, and St. Louis Catholic Academy.

Additionally, Archbishop Carlson approved the closure of St. Angela Merici School in Florissant due to decreasing school enrollment, low registration for the 2017-2018 school year, and the retirement of the current principal. Parish leadership submitted this request desiring to be good stewards of parish resources. A new vision for Catholic education in the North County area and the implementation of a partnership model school at St. Ferdinand, St. Norbert, and St. Rose Philippine Duchesne will continue as planned. Students from St. Angela Merici School will be welcomed at these schools and other Catholic schools throughout the north county area.

The archdiocese and the administration of both schools will take steps to cooperate and support school families, teachers, staff, and parishioners during this time of transition.

As the renaissance of Catholic education moves forward in the Archdiocese of St. Louis, with renewed commitment and focus for vibrancy and quality, our schools will remain committed to working together and including members of the St. Louis the King and St. Angela Merici school communities in the process.

The archdiocese asks for continued prayers and support as we continue to follow the model of St. Rose Philippine Duchesne in exploring and expanding the educational frontiers in our Catholic schools.

#CatholicSTL