

# BISMARCK AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS VISION STATEMENT

An excerpt from *Renewing our Commitment to Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools in the Third Millennium* published by the United States Catholic Bishops in support of Catholic schools. © 2005

“We are convinced that Catholic Schools continue to be ‘the most effective means available to the Church for the education of children and young people’ who are the future of the Church.”

The Catholic schools of the Bismarck area will be jointly operated by the member parishes (currently Ascension, Cathedral, Corpus Christi, Saint Anne’s and Saint Mary’s), for the purpose of educating children whose families are seeking an academically strong, early learning through high school education grounded in the teachings and practices of the Catholic Church. The schools will work in partnership with parents, the primary educators of their children.

The schools will continue to employ highly qualified administrators, teachers and staff passionate about imparting faith and knowledge, and committed to empowering students to participate in their faith and educational development. Innovative and effective educational practices will be at the forefront of the students’ learning experience. The Catholic spirit and academic excellence of the schools will continue to be enhanced through the accomplishment of a strategic plan that will include:

- ❖ A plan designed to ensure that the strong Catholic spirit and culture including religious education, opportunities for worship and prayer, and a commitment to servant leadership, stewardship and community service will be hallmarks for the Catholic schools of the Bismarck area.
- ❖ An educational plan designed to provide high academic standards for early learning through high school, a well articulated and unified preschool-high school curriculum and appropriate accreditation for all schools. As part of the educational plan, a plan will be developed for the acquisition, use and update of technology that supports the educational goals.

Committed to the premise that together we are stronger than any one of us is alone, the member parishes will jointly operate the schools through an effective and efficient governance structure designed to provide support and direction to the schools.

There will be a comprehensive plan for the temporal vitality<sup>1</sup> of the schools that is sustainable, mission driven, responsive to changing demographics and provides for the spiritual and educational needs of the students. The comprehensive plan will include the following elements:

- ❖ A succinct mission statement that clearly defines the nature and purpose of the schools and inspires the actions taken on their behalf.
- ❖ A fiscally accountable funding plan that includes financial management, responsible compensation, resource development and investment.
- ❖ A unified tuition model that is affordable and just.
- ❖ A facility plan that provides for maintenance, capital improvements and appropriate expansion.
- ❖ A communication plan that informs and educates our community about our schools and encourages support and participation.
- ❖ A marketing plan that identifies target audiences, provides a compelling message, encourages recruitment and development, and includes effective strategies to reach the target audiences.
- ❖ A comprehensive development plan that includes the creation of a development office.

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“Our vision is clear: our Catholic schools are a vital part of the teaching mission of the Church...we must respond to challenging times with faith, vision, and the will to succeed because the Catholic school’s mission is vital to the future of our young people, our nation, and most especially our Church.”

It is our vision that the Catholic schools of the Bismarck area will respond to the Bishops’ call by being Catholic in spirit and culture, academically excellent, jointly operated by the member parishes, and funded in a manner that makes them available, accessible and affordable to all families who wish to choose them for their children.

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<sup>1</sup> Temporal vitality relates to the “secular” health of an institution, i.e., financial security, stable enrollment, well maintained facility, active marketing and development, etc.