

# **Strengthen & Sustain Catholic Education in the York Deanery**

## **School Study Update**

The members of the School Study to Strengthen & Sustain Catholic Education (SASCE) would like to thank each of you for your patience as we have worked to develop a plan for the future of Catholic elementary school education in the York Deanery. We appreciate the interest expressed by so many, through participation in the process, attendance at our Town Hall meeting, and responding to our survey. We have tried to listen to every voice and take your words to heart.

While it would be impossible to summarize all of the input received, we would like to highlight a few key themes. First, there is an evident passion for the future of Catholic elementary schools in the York area. Likewise, it is abundantly clear that each of you loves and values your individual school, its teachers and principal, and the community that exists there. There was general acknowledgement of several important points, including the decline in enrollment, the increased financial burden placed on the parishes and parents, and the need for something to change. In addition, many of you recognized the tremendous task that was placed before our committee and the impressive amount of work that has gone into developing a proposal. We would like to echo that recognition and offer our thanks to everyone involved.

The pastors are committed to continue the tradition of working within their parishes to offer Catholic school education to our community. Through the course of the School Study, there is now a refreshed attention and willingness toward greater collaboration among pastors and principals. We will work to take the best elements of our original plans and work together to gain the benefits of these ideas.

A Deanery Advisory Committee for Elementary School Education will be created to plan collaborative efforts between all schools where it makes sense, and solicit additional input from the individual parishes on the best path forward. The committee will be comprised of Pastoral and Lay leadership, the York Deanery school principals, and representatives from each parish. Particular attention will be placed on collaborative opportunities within Academics, Clubs/Athletics, Social/Family, Fundraising/Marketing/Awareness, and Administration.

We will provide regular updates on our progress through parish bulletins and school newsletters. We are encouraged by the passion of the Catholic community to continue offering Catholic education in the York Deanery and look forward to your continued support.