



✿ THE 2010 INITIATIVE ✿



May 5 , 2008 - Cardinal, Mayor, 2010 Initiative Break Ground on New Era In Catholic Schools In Dorchester/ Mattapan

Brighton, MA - The revitalization of Catholic education in Dorchester/Mattapan took a significant step forward today when ground was broken on the Columbia Campus of Pope John Paul II Catholic Academy. Cardinal Seán P. O'Malley was joined by Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino, local clergy, the Catholic Schools Office, Campaign for Catholic Schools, members of the 2010 strategic planning committee, students, teachers and staff as well as representatives of the Teen Center at today's event.

As was announced last November (2007), Catholic schools in Dorchester/Mattapan are being revitalized through a comprehensive plan, designed at the local level, as part of the Archdiocese of Boston's 2010 Initiative. The plan calls for the establishment of one regional school on five campuses all offering Pre K-8. The Academy has established a website at www.popejp2catholicacademy.org.

Cardinal Seán said, "The Archdiocese is blessed by the contributions many people are making toward our efforts to strengthen and enhance Catholic education. Generations of families have been educated in Dorchester/Mattapan, our Catholic schools' alumni are well represented among leaders in education, government, business and many other professions. We look forward to educating future generations and helping to develop tomorrow's leaders at Pope John Paul II Catholic Academy."

Mayor Menino said, "This groundbreaking for the Pope John Paul II Catholic Academy symbolizes the City's ongoing work with the Archdiocese. This neighborhood has always identified with its strong parishes and the mission of its Catholic schools, and the 2010 initiative has my support."

Jack Connors, Chair of the 2010 Strategic Planning Committee and chair of the Campaign for Catholic Schools, said, "Catholic education in the Archdiocese of Boston has a bright future. Today's groundbreaking is a major step forward. In September, 1,500 students from Dorchester and Mattapan will enter Pope John Paul II Catholic Academy, which will be built at cost by Suffolk Construction. We will provide these youngsters with the right kind of environment in which to learn; the kind of environment that they deserve and that their parents want for them. Over the next two years, we will renovate each of the five campuses. The building on one campus will be completely razed and in its place will be built the first new Catholic school in Boston in over 50 years. We thank Cardinal Seán for giving us the opportunity to implement his important vision for a new and improved Catholic education."

A priority for the 2010 Dorchester/Mattapan implementation committee has been enrollment. As of today, enrollment for Pope John Paul II Catholic Academy is at 90% capacity (1372 as of May 1, 2008). The school anticipates 1,500 students for the next school year, with the ability to add additional capacity in future years. Also, 257 new students have enrolled in the Academy.

Dorchester/Mattapan Plan

As announced last fall, the seven current schools will be realigned under a new management structure consisting of a regional board and a regional director. This will provide greater resources for curriculum, staff, technology and finances and ensure the long-term viability of these schools while maintaining their Catholic identity.

Pope John Paul II Catholic Academy will consist of five campuses all offering Pre K to Grade 8. The campus school locations are: Columbia (former St. Margaret's), Neponset (St. Ann's), Lower Mills (St Gregory's), Mattapan Square (St Angela's), and Dorchester Central (St Mark's).



Sr. Kathleen Fitz Simons, CND, Interim Superintendent of the Archdiocese of Boston Catholic Schools, said, "This plan allows us to enhance curriculum, improve technology at all campus locations, provide increased programs for families beyond the regular school day, work towards increasing teacher salaries and reinforce our commitment to families who want to preserve Catholic education in the community."

Columbia Campus Enhancements

The Columbia Campus will include 22 classrooms, which includes six kindergarten classrooms. The support spaces included a music room, art room, computer room, resource room, science room and teacher's room. There will be an 18,000 square foot addition, which will have an elevator, gymnasium, auditorium, and cafeteria, among other additions. The existing rectory has been demolished to make room for the addition. The school will have all new windows, mechanical, electrical, plumbing and sprinklers and an elevator.

John Fish, President and CEO of Suffolk Construction and a member of the 2010 Strategic Planning Committee, said, "Our objective is to create a classroom experience at the Columbia Campus and across the other five campuses that will allow students to learn in an enriching and exciting environment. Improved technology, creative use of space, and a commitment to develop classrooms that allow for the best interaction between student and teacher is guiding us in our work."

Dorchester/Mattapan 2010 Fundraising Effort in Full Swing

The cost to implement the plan is projected to be \$68 million and will be paid for largely through private donations. Established in late 2007, the Campaign for Catholic Schools (CCS) will raise the necessary funding for the project and is well underway with extensive outreach to individuals, organizations and philanthropic organizations interested in having a lasting positive impact on Catholic education in the Archdiocese. The Campaign's budget has been covered by private philanthropy. All funds raised will go directly to the Dorchester project with no overhead cost. In the five months since its inception, more than \$17 million has been raised.

Building on the success of the establishment in 2007 of Trinity Catholic Academy, Brockton, the current focus of the CCS is aimed at raising major funds for Catholic schools in Greater Boston as designated by the 2010 Initiative. Current projects include the following campaigns: \$68M to help establish the new, five-campus Pope John Paul II Catholic Academy serving Dorchester/Mattapan. A targeted portion of this campaign goal (\$4M of the \$68M goal) is directed at major renovations and program enhancements for the Catholic Charities Teen Center at St. Peter, Dorchester, MA. Another funding priority of CCS is to raise \$4.5 million to renovate and upgrade of St. Ann School in Gloucester. Additional Catholic schools projects are being identified for future funding.

Dorchester/Mattapan Pastor's Statement

In a joint statement, pastors in Dorchester/Mattapan stated: "Catholic education is a priority for the Church and for our community. We extend our sincere thanks for the incredible work and commitment of so many who are dedicating their time, expertise and resources in providing the families of Dorchester/Mattapan with this new Catholic educational experience. We pray that our Lord continues to bless our community as we undertake this exciting journey in the life of Pope John Paul II Catholic Academy." By: Fr. Thomas Foley (pastor of St. Ann), Fr. Richard Conway (administrator of Holy Family), Fr. George Carrigg (pastor of St. Christopher), Fr. Paul Soper (pastor of Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta), Fr. Alexander Keenan (administrator of St. Ambrose), Fr. Daniel Finn (pastor of St. Mark and St. Peter), Fr. William Joy (pastor of St. Matthew and pastor of St. Angela), and Msgr. Paul Ryan (pastor of St. Gregory).

Teen Center Program Improvements

The Catholic Charities Teen Center, located at St. Peter's, will receive \$4 million of significant upgrades and enhancements for its important mission. Catholic Charities President and CEO Tiziana Dearing said, "Catholic Charities is engaged in the important work of providing community-based programs to help youth stay on track in their studies and stay out of trouble. We feel support from the 2010 Initiative for the Teen Center is going to greatly benefit our work in the community."



Regional Director, Principals, Teachers and Professional Staff Update

The Board of Directors of Pope John Paul II Catholic Academy is pleased to announce that Mary L. Russo has been named Regional Director. A professional educator for over 30 years, she has been recognized with many of the most prestigious awards in education, namely the U.S. Department of Education's National Distinguished Principal Award and the Massachusetts Elementary Principal of the Year Award. Currently the principal of the Richard J. Murphy School in Dorchester, she previously was the principal-on-loan for the Boston Annenburg Challenge, a Cohort of 24 schools in the city of Boston and prior to this she was principal of Samuel W. Mason School in Roxbury. She has been a teacher, as well as a specialist in reading and basic skills. Sr. Kathleen said, "We are honored that Mary has accepted this position and that she is so committed to helping us in our mission to greatly enhance Catholic education in Dorchester/Mattapan."

In addition to the hiring of a regional director, principals have been hired for three campuses. They are: Ms. Claire Barton Sheridan (Columbia Campus), Sr. Paula Kelley (Lower Mills Campus), and Ms. Catherine Cameron (Neponset Campus). Principals for the Dorchester Central and Mattapan Square campuses are expected to be hired within the next several weeks. All of the current teachers from the 7 schools, who applied to Pope John Paul II, have been interviewed and the majority of these teachers have been given offers to teach at the new school. We currently have 12 full time teacher openings and the interviews for all part-time, administrative and specialist positions will be ongoing this week.

Inner City Scholarship Fund

Since its inception in 1991, the Inner City Scholarship Fund, the signature program of the Catholic Schools Foundation, has provided over \$65,000,000 in scholarship support for students to attend Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Boston, as well as providing technology, counseling and marketing support for the schools. As this transformative project is underway, the Inner City Scholarship Fund is working in collaboration with the Campaign for Catholic Schools and the 2010 Dorchester/Mattapan Implementation team to ensure that no student is denied admission because of an inability to pay tuition.

2010 Initiative: When the 2010 Initiative was announced in August 2005 the Archdiocese stated that it believed that the most effective plan will be one developed by drawing upon the collective experience of principals, pastors and local stakeholders working with professional education experts, consultants and practitioners in the community. The Archdiocese is committed to developing a sustainable plan that will meet the needs of students and local communities now and in the future.

About the Campaign for Catholic Schools: The Campaign for Catholic Schools is a new nonprofit organization established in December 2007 by Jack Connors, Jr., Chairman Emeritus and a founding partner of Boston advertising agency Hill, Holliday, Connors Cosmopolos, Inc., and John F. Fish, President and Chief Executive Officer, Suffolk Construction, Boston. The Campaign was established as an outgrowth of the 2010 Initiative, a major strategic planning effort aimed at rebuilding and revitalizing the Catholic Schools in the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston (RCAB). The CCS operational budget is funded by private philanthropy and is a donor-advised fund of the RCAB under the direction of a board of trustees. CCS welcomes gifts of all sizes, which may be designated to particular school projects.

About the Archdiocese of Boston: The Archdiocese of Boston was founded on April 8, 1808 and was elevated to Archdiocese in 1875. Currently serving the needs of approximately 2 million Catholics, the Archdiocese of Boston is an ethnically diverse and spiritually enriching faith community consisting of 295 parishes, across 144 communities, educating approximately 48000 students in its Catholic schools and 156, 000 in religious education classes each year, ministering to the needs of more than one million patients annually in its hospitals and 200,000 individuals through its social service outreach. Mass is celebrated in nearly twenty different languages each week. For more information, please visit www.rcab.org.

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