



September 16, 2008 - Cardinal Celebrates Opening Mass for Pope John Paul II Catholic Academy With 1,500 Students

✽ THE 2010 INITIATIVE ✽



Boston, MA, September 16, 2008 - Cardinal Seán P. O'Malley celebrated an opening Mass for Pope John Paul II Catholic Academy earlier today with more than 1,500 students, faculty, parents, and dignitaries. The school opened on Monday, September 8, 2008 serving PreK-8 on five campuses in Dorchester/Mattapan.

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 Academy has established a website at www.popejp-2catholicacademy.org.

Cardinal Seán said, "We are grateful for the generous contributions of so many who have assisted in this effort to strengthen and enhance Catholic education in Dorchester and Mattapan. Catholic education is an important ministry in the life of our Church as we seek to educate future generations of Catholic, civic and professional leaders."

Mayor Menino said, "Under Cardinal O'Malley's leadership, the Archdiocese and the Dorchester and Mattapan communities have come together to make this project a success. The renovated Pope John Paul II Academy will be a model for Catholic education in neighborhoods that have always identified with the mission of their strong Catholic Schools. I wish the Archdiocese the best of luck in the next phases of the *2010 Initiative*."

Mary Grassa O'Neill, Secretary for Education/Superintendent for Catholic Schools, Archdiocese of Boston, said, "More than 1,500 students, many new to Catholic education, began the school year at Pope John Paul II Catholic Academy ready to learn. Much has been accomplished through collaboration and dedication in recent months and today we are seeing the very positive results of these efforts. We are grateful for Cardinal Seán's vision and commitment to strengthening Catholic education here in the Archdiocese for our students and their families."

Jack Connors, Chair of the 2010 Strategic Planning Committee and chair of the Campaign for Catholic Schools, said, "Catholic schools have a bright future because of the enormous commitment of the Cardinal and literally hundreds of people looking to help make a positive impact in our communities. Dorchester and Mattapan are now poised to lead the way forward in this effort locally, just as we witnessed in Brockton with the establishment of Trinity Catholic Academy. The Archdiocese of Boston, with the generous support of many individuals and foundations, has taken a leadership role in revitalizing and strengthening Catholic education for so many children today and in the future."

Pope John Paul II Catholic Academy consists of five campuses all offering Pre K to Grade 8. The campus school locations are:

Neponset Campus (239 Neponset Avenue, Dorchester, MA)
Lower Mills Campus (2214 Dorchester Avenue, Dorchester, MA)
Dorchester Central Campus (197 Centre Street, Dorchester, MA)
Columbia Campus (790 Columbia Road, Dorchester, MA)
Mattapan Square Campus (120 Babson Street, Mattapan, MA)

Dorchester/Mattapan 2010 Fundraising Update

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 nine months since its inception, more than \$22 million has been raised for Pope John Paul II Catholic Academy.

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 and 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.

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.*

The Archdiocese of Boston

The Diocese 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 292 parishes, across 144 communities, educating approximately 46,000 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 Catholic 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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