



## **November 19, 2008 - December Meetings Planned As S. Boston Catholic School Process Continues**

**South Boston** -- For eighteen months a Collaborative Board consisting of representatives of Gate of Heaven Parish and school and St. Brigid Parish and school have been working together to ensure the presence of a strong and vibrant Catholic school for the families of South Boston.

From the beginning of the collaborative process it was evident that enrollments and financial circumstances at both Gate of Heaven School and St. Brigid School would require that the two schools be combined into one. Since that time, there have been extensive collaborative discussions and reviews of the schools' facilities and enrollment projections, demographic studies, school parent surveys and the financial condition of the schools as part of the process of moving toward a recommendation for the location of the combined school.

Recently, a decision was announced that a new Catholic school will be established in South Boston, to provide for the needs of the students currently attending Gate of Heaven School and St. Brigid School. Several meetings have been scheduled to further review the information that has been gathered and to share a 6-month plan that will lead to opening the new school in September of 2009 at the St. Brigid school site under a new name.

An earlier announced parents meeting scheduled for this week has been postponed in favor of four meetings scheduled for the first week of December. These meetings will involve the Collaborative Board, faculty members from Gate of Heaven and St Brigid schools, and parents only meetings for both Gate of Heaven School and St Brigid School.

In a letter to school parents, Rev. Robert Casey, pastor of Gate of Heaven Parish and St. Brigid Parish, wrote, "I am grateful to the members of the Collaborative Board who, over the past 18 months, have demonstrated a profound commitment in the painstaking work of thoroughly examining the respective situations of our two parish schools."

Fr. Casey added, "It is our hope and prayer that the Catholic community in South Boston can work together, building on the strong and proud history of Gate of Heaven parish and St. Brigid parish, to provide superior Catholic education for the children of the parishes and their families."