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Bismarck Catholic schools form jointly operated Catholic schools system

Bismarck, N.D. – Bismarck’s Catholic schools have a long history of being committed to providing an exceptional faith-based, academic experience. Today, they shared the new vision and future of Catholic education in the community, which involves the formation of a jointly operated Catholic school system.

The Light of Christ Catholic Schools of Excellence will include St. Mary’s Grade School, Cathedral School, St. Anne’s School and St. Mary’s Central High School. They will be jointly operated by parishes of Ascension, Cathedral, Corpus Christi, St. Anne’s and St. Mary’s.

“We’ve developed an educational plan that will provide high academic standards and unified curriculum, and are now seeking the right person to lead this charge,” said Greg Vetter, co-chair of the strategic planning process. “Recently we started a national search for a quality Catholic school superintendent with the credentials and expertise to build and lead the new system, and implement the strategic plan over the next three to five years.”

The jointly operated system calls for:

- Creation of a vibrant Catholic culture and community with the commitment to promoting Servant-Leadership
- Setting a direction toward innovative learning based on best practices, the use of technology, development of a common, aligned and articulated curriculum for PreK-12 and accreditation for PreK-12
- Oversight of facilities and maintenance
- Development of a common tuition and salary scale
- Marketing and advancement for the system
- Expanded tuition assistance for families
- The ability to identify resources that can be shared with the community and those that the community can share with the schools
- The development of a middle school program for grades 6-8

Sr. Thomas Welder, co-chair of the strategic planning process, noted the benefits of the new Catholic school system, “A unified system of Catholic schools provides many opportunities from the efficiency of reducing costs of services, a unified curriculum, enhanced resources to support staff development for our administrators and teachers, and the support and direction of an educational leader at the helm of our system. More importantly it will strengthen the already vibrant spirit of our faith community in Bismarck.”

There is a space in the Light of Christ Catholic Schools of Excellence for your children. For enrollment information, contact the schools listed below:

Cathedral School	(701) 223-5484	www.cathedral.k12.nd.us
St. Anne's School	(701) 223-2273	www.st-anneschool.org
St. Mary's Grade School	(701) 223-0225	www.stmarysbismarck.org/school
St. Mary's Central High School	(701) 223-4113	www.smchs.org

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