

**TO: Principals and Teachers**  
**FROM:** Rev. Msgr. Kevin M. Hanbury, Vicar for Education  
**RE:** Update – Catholic Education Commission  
**DATE:** November 1, 2011

I am very happy to share with you the following update on the activities of the Catholic Education Commission as it works toward its February 2012 completion of a strategic plan for the Catholic elementary schools of this great Archdiocese. I ask you to share this update with all of your parishioners and school communities in the coming weeks in your regular parish bulletins and school newsletters.

We will continue to keep you updated as more information is available.

Thank you.

### **Update on Catholic Education Commission**

In recent weeks, the members of the Catholic Education Commission examining the future of Catholic elementary education in the Archdiocese of Newark have been meeting in smaller subcommittees charged with such areas as Facilities, Finance and Governance Curriculum, Marketing, Enrollment, Leadership and, most important, Catholic identity.

During this period, the subcommittee members have been developing and evaluating a range of information, including ideas and programs that are working in other dioceses and educational programs, and the challenges of incorporating some of these ideas within the Archdiocesan program. They are also looking to Best Practices nationwide in terms of educational models and finances. In addition, these groups are analyzing the current data on areas like enrollment trends, academic test scores, finances and demand for a Catholic education in order help position the Catholic schools of the Archdiocese as a vital and vibrant program for educating children for the future.

The impact of current legislative issues, including both full school choice and the Opportunity Scholarship Act, are also concerns that the subcommittees and overall Commission are examining.

Archbishop Myers has met with the members of the Commission, and has expressed both his appreciation for the work to date, and his anticipation that the full strategic plan for the future of the Catholic elementary schools will be comprehensive and ready for submission by its February 2012 deadline.

We ask for your continued prayers and support as the Catholic Education Commission continues in the coming weeks to work to ensure the highest quality Catholic education program for the benefit of God's children here in the Archdiocese.

