



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT ~ CATHOLIC SCHOOL SUPPORT SERVICES

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

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Preserving the Vision Newsletter #1

Dear Parents/Guardians,

In September 2008, the Diocese of Brooklyn began a strategic planning process for Catholic education called *Preserving the Vision Strategic Plan*. The long-term goal of this process is to strengthen the mission of Catholic education in Brooklyn and Queens by creating a new governance model for each elementary school that draws assistance from multiple partnerships designed to strengthen every aspect of a Catholic school's life for the benefit of our children. In September 2013, the *Preserving the Vision Strategic Plan* was updated to include: the New Evangelization, Political Advocacy, Expanded Collaboration with Catholic High Schools and Catholic Colleges and Universities and Maintenance of School Infrastructure.

“We believe that the mission of Catholic schools is to educate our young people in the Catholic faith – intellectually, socially and morally. Schools and academies must seek to strengthen families as the prime place for faith formation. We reaffirm our desire to make Catholic education accessible to all children who desire to attend a Catholic school and academy, regardless of where they live within the Diocese of Brooklyn” (Adopted from “*Preserving the Vision*” Executive Summary 2008).

By September 2017, all parish elementary schools within the Diocese of Brooklyn will be converted into Catholic academies to allow for lay leadership in each school's governance. The participation of the laity in the Church's educational mission is critically important for its long-term vitality.

Why the Catholic Academy? Since the Second Vatican Council, the Roman Catholic Church has recognized that lay men and women, possessing unique talents, abilities and skills are essential to help the Church maintain vital ministries and to plan for its future. The participation of the laity in the Church's educational mission remains critically important as we address the future of Catholic education within the Diocese of Brooklyn.

This new model and its partnerships will strengthen Catholic education in our neighborhoods and communities for generations to come. Already, as part of *Preserving the Vision*, forty two academies have been established.

Each new Catholic academy is chartered by the Board of Regents of the State of New York and includes a two-tier governance model made up of Members and Directors. Both of these bodies share in the school's governance, aid in developing policies that reflect the academy's mission and work to ensure its future through strategic planning and outreach. Also, the Board of

Directors brings to the academy their expertise in finance, marketing, recruitment and retention, development, education and grant writing.

Attached please find a chart which clearly outlines the two-tier governance model for the academies.

Parents, pastors, teachers and administrators remain the key to our students' success, and we look forward to sharing the exciting news of *Preserving the Vision* with you and exchanging ideas for greater success. More information will be available in the coming days.

Please find *Preserving the Vision* on the Diocesan Website for Catholic Education, www.dioceseofbrooklyn.org/schools.

To provide you with additional information on the academy process, a parent meeting has been scheduled at your school.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas Chadzutko". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T' and a long, sweeping underline.

Thomas Chadzutko, Ed.D.
Superintendent