

# *The Advisory Council*

For Catholic Elementary Education in Chester County



As you are aware, over a year ago, the Southern Chester County Steering Committee (SCCSC) was formed to examine the best way to deliver Catholic Education to students in Southern Chester County. During this process, we have witnessed your unwavering support of our local Catholic Elementary Schools. We thank you for being a part of this initiative by sharing your thoughts, questions, and concerns.

Several activities took place to ensure the SCCSC was equipped with current and meaningful information. This included a study by an independent firm, the formation of a committee of stakeholders from all of the parishes in the area, surveys, a town hall meeting, and school visitations. After an analysis of this valuable data from parents, parishioners and other important stakeholders, many critical facts arose such as:

- There is a strong desire to have Catholic education in Southern Chester County.
- Each school community values their school culture and staff.
- Parents would like to see some additional programs and enhanced academic offerings.

Using this information, the Committee considered how it could deliver services to the families in Southern Chester County. Through additional parent surveys and analysis of results related to possible options to consolidate, it was clear that families wanted to attend their local school and did not support consolidation and traveling to a new single school location. The focus of the SCCSC then turned to how each school can be made sustainable.

We are pleased to announce that we look to sustain both Sacred Heart and Assumption Blessed Virgin Mary Schools as separate entities with the support of several new initiatives.

- Each school will receive a Strategic Planning Assistance Team, which will work with each school to maximize finances, academics, and marketing.
- Each school will form its own Board of Limited Jurisdiction.
- Each school will receive financial support from the Foundation for Catholic Education to move the school toward self-sustainability.
- Each school will look to enhance their curricular offerings as well as co-curricular offering to help meet the expectations of their community.

After looking at the strengths and needs of each school, we are very confident that we can move forward and meet these expectations. Our focus has changed from consolidation to one of reinvigoration. Closing either one of these schools is not a desired outcome nor a consideration at this time. We look forward to working together to promote the value of Catholic education throughout our SCC 5 parish Catholic community and strive to grow enrollment, make Catholic education more accessible to all and eliminate the school financial deficits. Together we can accomplish this goal and we are excited about maintaining both school communities. Thank you for your support and effort in this process.