

STATEMENT FOR MASSES ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2020

As I announced last Sunday at Mass, Mr. Matt Walter of the Archdiocese of Chicago Office of Catholic Schools conducted an online meeting concerning the state of our parish school this past Thursday. Here is a summary of the announcement from the Archdiocese.

After studying the enrollment and financial pattern of our school during the last five years, it is clear that we have been experiencing both a decrease in enrollment and an increase in the annual operating deficit. In short, our school has not been able to enroll enough students and realize enough income to cover our annual operating costs. So far, the projected operating deficit for the school alone for this academic year is \$325,000. That's just the school, not the church.

As a result of shrinking enrollment and rising operating deficits, Cardinal Cupich is evaluating our school and considering possibly closing our school at the end of this academic year. **He has not made the decision yet**, but is evaluating the possibility. **The Cardinal's final decision will be announced to us by about the third week of January 2021.**

If the school should close, it will not close until the end of this school year, namely June 2020. We will finish this school year in its entirety.

What can we do? Mr. Walter communicated a very concrete goal to help keep our school open after June 2020. To cover our operating deficits for this school year and for the 2021-2022 school year, we must raise **\$400,000** to demonstrate that we do have the real capability to continue to fund our school programs and operations. That's a lofty goal for the next six weeks, but we already have a number of our staff and parishioners working on raising \$400,000.

Please pray for the future of our wonderful school. You know it's the best. Ask God to help us raise the funds we need to remain open.

Also, if you can help with the funding or the fundraising, please contact our Principal, Mr. Bill Donegan, our Operations Director, Mrs. Beth Ritzenthaler or myself [Fr. Bart]. We appreciate all the help we can get.

I [Fr. Bart] will keep you apprised of developments concerning our parish school as they arise. May the Good Lord bless us all.