



Study on Catholic Education in the Adams Deanery

Immediate Release

October 20, 2016

New School to be Formed

A restructuring of Catholic Education in the Adams County area has been announced following a 2 year study that was begun in May of 2014. It is the result of the work of over 100 representatives from the parishes and schools involved who worked diligently with a priority of continuing to maintain the integrated, holistic well-being of Catholic education in the Adams Deanery for the parishes and schools.

The result is that a new school will be formed out of 3 current schools and it will be named Saint Teresa of Calcutta Catholic School, after one of the newest saints in the Catholic Church. The schools involved are Annunciation BVM, McSherrystown; Immaculate Conception BVM, New Oxford and Sacred Heart of Jesus, Conewago. Saint Joseph School, Hanover and St. Francis Xavier School, Gettysburg will continue to operate as parish based schools.

The Study on Catholic Education in the Adams Deanery began in May 2014 to address the evolving changes in demographics and the challenges they presented. The goal being that the parishes and schools would work together to be able to continue meeting the needs of their collective students and families.

Bishop Ronald W. Gainer of the Diocese of Harrisburg has approved this plan of action that was derived from the efforts of the local committee and in discussion with the Secretariat for Education of the Diocese.

Bishop Gainer commented, "The deanery study has laid the foundations for the work before us as we seek together to strengthen Catholic education for current and future generations, most especially in an area where there is such a long and proud tradition of Catholic Schools."

A key element in the announced plan is a structural change from parish based schools to an inter-parochial model. Currently each parish is responsible for the total operation of its school. Under