

Catholic Secondary School Administrators

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December 9, 2009

Dear Parents,

If you don't know the following information that has already begun to threaten Catholic education on Long Island and throughout New York State, ***you should!***

- *In 2008, the Governor proposed cutting \$200 million in **mandatory services reimbursements to religious and independent schools**. Funding was cut for us. Funding was **NOT** cut for public schools!*
- *Earlier this year, our State Legislators voted to impose a payroll tax on all employers in the metro area to support the MTA. All our **Catholic schools had to pay this tax retroactively to March 1st**. **Public schools were only required to pay the tax starting as of September 1st**. To make this inequity even more disgraceful and discriminatory toward religious schools, **public schools have been promised that their tax payments will be fully reimbursed by the State – ours will not!***
- *In a move that would directly **limit your rights as a Catholic parent**, NY State's proposed Reproductive Health & Privacy Protection Act, (RHAPP), and the federal Freedom of Choice Act, (FOCA), stand to **eliminate all restrictions on abortion, including parental notification and conscience protection** for our Catholic Hospitals, Institutions, and health care providers!*

In the current political and economic climate, some of these actions are easily disguised as purely “budgetary” decisions. But make no mistake – they threaten the very core of Catholic education and directly challenge our Constitutional guarantee to freely practice our religion – of which preserving the sanctity of ALL life is a cornerstone.

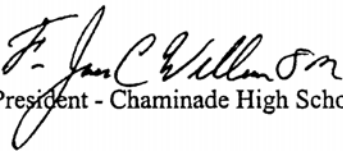
As Principals of the Catholic High Schools in the Diocese of Rockville Centre we have worked for the past 30 years together to provide a great, solid education that is faithful to the doctrines of the Catholic Church. Our mission is about preserving our Catholic Identity – not just talking about it, but living it with conviction. To continue that work **we need YOU more than ever** to get involved and **DEMAND THAT OUR LEGISLATORS TREAT US FAIRLY AND EQUITABLY**.

The easiest way to do this – and to stay informed – is to **JOIN THE NY STATE CATHOLIC ADVOCACY NETWORK** of the NY State Catholic Conference. They do the work for you by ensuring your collective voices – as concerned parents of Catholic High School students – are heard. In today's electronic age, it's simple to join:

GO TO: www.NYSCATHOLIC.ORG and click on **“JOIN THE NETWORK.”**

Do not underestimate the power we have as a voting block! Now is not the time to be a spectator – it is the time to get involved. Next week, next month, next year, may be too late. Thank you in advance for your support going forward. We truly need each other if our schools – and our core Catholic values are to continue to exist and prosper.

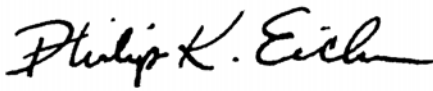
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President - Chaminade High School


President – Sacred Heart Academy

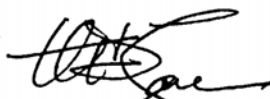

Principal - Holy Trinity Diocesan High School

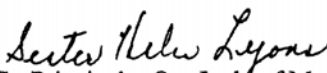

Principal – St. Anthony's High School

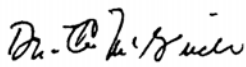

President – Kellenberg Memorial High School


Principal – St. Dominic High School


Principal – McGann Mercy Diocesan High School


Principal – St. John the Baptist Diocesan High School


Co-Principal – Our Lady of Mercy High School


Principal – St. Mary's College Preparatory High School