

## **SASCE UPDATE**

Members of the Strengthen and Sustain Catholic Education (SASCE) Committee for the York Deanery would like to share the following update:

### **BACKGROUND:**

The SASCE committee was formed in 2016 by Bishop Gainer and the Diocese of Harrisburg Office of Education to perform a study and develop a strategic action plan that will strengthen and sustain Catholic education in the York Deanery. This is due to declining enrollments and increasing costs.

### **PROCESS:**

SASCE committee members (pastors, principals, and select lay leader volunteers from every York Deanery parish) have worked hard to define and understand the challenges and opportunities. The committee conducted interviews with pastors and principals, collected financial and enrollment data, and surveyed parishioners and school families. After collecting this information, including over 400 survey results, the committee sought experts in finance and best practices in Catholic education to determine the best path forward. An independent consultant facilitated the process, while the pastors, principals, and lay leaders worked together to prepare recommendations for the Diocese of Harrisburg.

### **OUTCOME:**

Research results from the study led the SASCE to form 11 sub-committees with pastors, principals, and select lay volunteers from every York Deanery parish to develop the strategic action plan. The 11 sub-committees are: Catholic identity, Curriculum, Enrollment, Extra-Curricular, Facilities, Finance, Governance, Human Resources, PR/Marketing, Technology, and Transportation.

### **GOALS:**

Every volunteer on every committee is dedicated to building a sustainable model for Catholic Education in the York Deanery. The model will successfully support every student on their Christ-centered journey.

The plan will:

- Modernize the structure of the Catholic school system in the York Deanery
- Improve academic achievement
- Facilitate moral and spiritual development
- Utilize collective resources and talents as efficiently as possible
- Continue to support local parishes in the ministry of Catholic education

### **NEXT STEPS:**

The SASCE committee, in conjunction with its 11 sub-committees, thanks you for your patience as we work through this comprehensive and thorough process. We request your prayers and support as the action plan is being finalized. When direction is given by Bishop Gainer and the Diocese of Harrisburg Office of Education, detailed communication will follow.

Questions can be directed to Father Jonathan Sawicki at [frsawicki@stmarysyork.org](mailto:frsawicki@stmarysyork.org).