June 25, 2024

Joint response on Oklahoma Supreme Court ruling
Archbishop Paul Coakley, Archdiocese of Oklahoma City,
Bishop David Konderla, Diocese of Tulsa

Today’s ruling is very disappointing for the hundreds of prospective students and their families from across the state of Oklahoma who desired the educational experience and promise of St. Isidore of Seville Catholic Virtual School. We will consider all legal options and remain steadfast in our belief that St. Isidore would have and could still be a valuable asset to students, regardless of socioeconomic, race or faith backgrounds.

Lara Schuler, Senior Director of Catholic Education, Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

The educational promise of St. Isidore Virtual Catholic School is reflected in the 200-plus applications we have received from families excited for this new learning opportunity. Clearly, we are disappointed in today’s ruling as it disregards the needs of many families in Oklahoma who only desire a choice in their child’s education. We will remain steadfast as we seek to right this wrong and to join Oklahoma’s great diversity of charter schools serving all families in the state.

Misty G. Smith, M.Ed., Principal, St. Isidore of Seville Catholic Virtual School

Today’s decision is a setback for Oklahoma K-12 students and to the ideal of free choice and open opportunity in education. I, however, will not give up hope that the Court’s error may be corrected and that St. Isidore will help open the path toward a future where the needs of all Oklahoma students and families are fulfilled, regardless of their background, income, or beliefs.