



Faith and knowledge together.

Holy Rosary School
St. James Catholic School
St. John's School
St. Michael's Lakeside School
St. Rose School

Progress Report: April 2011

Alleluia! May the blessings of this holy Easter season awaken in us a faith that is strengthened by the resurrection of Jesus, our Lord!

Spring-like weather is just around the corner, and our Duluth Area Catholic Schools are busy, busy, busy! As we put the final touches on this current school year, we already are planning for the next. The last few weeks of school are filled with many wonderful activities, such as welcoming young Catholics into the sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion, school field trips and picnics, the second annual talent show, spring fundraisers, and graduation celebrations of our students.

Recruitment is in full swing, with principals encouraging interested families to call and schedule school tours. Our spring marketing strategy includes targeting area zip codes with a postcard campaign and promoting our schools to Catholic parishes in the Duluth and Proctor area. Please continue to do your part by speaking to friends, parishioners, and relatives about the benefits of Catholic education. "Word of mouth" is our best marketing tool.

The Board has approved a strategic plan for Duluth Area Catholic Schools, and it is awaiting approval from Bishop Sirba. The final plan will be posted online, and principals and pastors are encouraged to share it with their school and parish communities. The plan recommends hiring of a part-time area coordinator. Applications are being accepted for this position, and interviews will be conducted within the next few weeks.

New chairs have been named for two Board committees. Jim Cherveney has accepted chairmanship of the Development Committee, and Julie Zenner will head the Marketing and Communications Committee. Board committees are developing their budget requests for the upcoming fiscal year.

Recently St. John's School, St. James School, and St. Michael's Lakeside School completed on-site visits for reaccreditation. St. Rose School will have its visit in May. We are very proud of our schools' history of accreditation through the Minnesota Nonpublic School Accrediting Association and confident of retaining that seal of approval.

Please visit our new School System website at www.duluthcatholicschools.org. Individual school websites are being redesigned with a similar look and feel, strengthening our brand identity. Those sites soon will be ready for launch.

Have you ever considered serving on the Duluth Area Catholic School Board? The Board is reviewing its membership and talent needs, anticipating the addition of new members. Contact Cynthia Zook at 724-9111 or czook@dioceseduluth.org for information or an application.

The next Board meeting is Thursday, June 2, 6:30 p.m. at the Pastoral Center. Visitors are welcome to attend.