



DIOCESE OF OAKLAND

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November 10, 2017

Dear Families,

November is a time for gratitude, and we thank you again for choosing to be a part of our school family. This month we write to update you about the exciting transition to our new Lumen Christi Academies and what this change means for our **governance**.

Lumen Christi Academies will build upon the leadership that currently exists in our school to provide greater support to help us achieve our mission. The network itself will still be part of the Diocese of Oakland but will be a new 501c3, non-profit, and a pious autonomous foundation. There will be a governing board with members approved by the Bishop who will work to strategically plan and facilitate policies that strengthen all of our schools. We will still have local consultative school boards who will support our principal and our school specifically. We value the wisdom and support of our faculty, staff, parents, alumni, parishioners, and local community members, and we will engage those who would like to support us on these boards.

According to the *National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Education (2012)*, the success of the mission of Catholic education depends on the key components of effective governance, which provides direction or authority, and leadership, which ensures effective operations. Lumen Christi Academies embraces these standards for excellence, and will work specifically to ensure that each of our 7 school families accomplish these two standards:

- An excellent Catholic school has a governing body (person or persons) which recognizes and respects the role(s) of the appropriate and legitimate authorities, and exercises responsible decision making (authoritative, consultative, advisory) in collaboration with the leadership team for development and oversight of the school's fidelity to mission, academic excellence, and operational vitality.
- An excellent Catholic school has a qualified leader/leadership team empowered by the governing body to realize and implement the school's mission and vision.

As principals, we are responsible for ensuring the mission of the school is alive and will continue to act as the chief instructional leader, spiritual leader, and administrator. Pastors will continue to work with principals to ensure the faith formation and spiritual growth of every member of our school family. In Lumen Christi Academies, principals will have support from a central team on facilities and financial issues. Essentially, we are increasing the governance resources and leadership to empower our school communities to focus on the mission and thrive.

Thank you again for entrusting us with your children and being our partners in education. We know that through our collaborative efforts, our children will grow into faith-filled, creative, bright young people who will illuminate a more just and joyful future for us all. We thank you for joining us on this journey!

Sincerely,

Dr. Liz Guneratne, Diocesan Liaison & Project Lead
Lynne Mullen, Principal of St. Elizabeth Elementary School
Sherri Moradi, Principal of St. Cornelius School
Marisol Preciado, Principal of St. Anthony School

Natalie Lenz-Acuna, Principal of St. Paul School
Pam Seto, Principal of St. Catherine School
Joe Siino, Principal of St. Petr Martyr School
Lucia Prince, Principal of Queen of All Saints School

To know Christ better and make Him better known