

Dear Parents,

Just one week ago I met with the Board of Trustees, the parents and all faculty members of Holy Rosary Academy to finalize the terms of their reception into our Archdiocesan Catholic School System. It has been a long journey but, at long last, we are offered the great opportunity to be a gracious and welcoming community to all the Holy Rosary family. Today I am asking each of you to join me in this important step to full union with all of God's people in this Archdiocese.

On Friday, January 29, at 1:00 PM in St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, the students of our three Catholic schools in Anchorage will gather for the annual mass that I am privileged to celebrate in recognition of Catholic Schools Week. This gathering will be the official welcome of Holy Rosary Academy into our midst. Throughout the following week (January 31 – February 6) we will honor the gift of Catholic education that you and countless other parents across this nation have made possible to insure the faith formation of our youth and the future of the church. That is our goal and our responsibility as we live and practice the gospel message.

Because, unlike our other four Catholic schools, Holy Rosary Academy is not directly affiliated with one of our parishes, they will continue to hold their financial independence but will receive the services and follow the directives of our Catholic school office. Father Tom Brundage, pastor of St. Michael Parish in Palmer, has generously accepted the role of chaplain to the academy and will offer weekly mass for the student body and other services as needed.

The February 5<sup>th</sup> edition of The Catholic Anchor will highlight information concerning this special event in order to make the entire Catholic community aware of this long awaited moment. Thank you for your support in sharing the good news!

Sincerely in Christ and Mary,

Archbishop Roger Schwietz, OMI  
Archbishop of Anchorage