



ARCHDIOCESE OF OMAHA

The Chancery

100 NORTH 62ND STREET
OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68132
TEL: 402 558-3100
FAX: 402 558-3026

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 6, 2009

CONTACT: Rev. Joseph C. Taphorn, Chancellor
(402) 558-3100 ext. 226

Archdiocese of Omaha announces closing of St. Richard elementary school St. Richard's students will be welcomed at nearby Catholic schools

March 6, 2009 (Omaha, Neb.) — The Archdiocese of Omaha, in consultation with the Catholic Outreach for Education (CORE) board, announced today that St. Richard elementary school, 4318 Fort Street, will close at the end of the academic year. Parents, teachers, staff and students were notified today that despite intensive efforts, the school's future is no longer viable.

Superintendent of Schools, Msgr. James Gilg, said the current economy combined with low enrollment and an ongoing need for outside financial support led to the difficult decision. Gilg added, "Despite tremendous efforts, we have reached the conclusion that the school's future cannot be sustained. We will now make every effort to help St. Richard's families transition to one of the five Catholic schools in the surrounding area." School officials will be contacting parents personally starting this weekend to discuss the best way for them to continue their children's education next year.

Neighboring schools include Holy Name, 2901 Fontenelle Blvd., Blessed Sacrament, 6316 N. 30th St., Sacred Heart, 2205 Binney St., St. Bernard, 3604 N. 65th St., and St. Philip Neri, 8202 N. 31st St.

Gilg indicated today's announcement was made to give parents and teachers as much notice as possible to prepare for the next school year.

The St. Richard decision does not take away from the commitment to provide a Catholic education in Omaha's inner-city neighborhoods. Msgr. Gilg emphasized that the Archdiocese of Omaha and the CORE board are "determined to responsibly use our resources and make every dollar count in this challenging economy."

##