

Progress Report

March 2024



Parish Partners for Catholic Education



Saint Eugene
Parish



Immaculate Heart
of Mary Parish



Saint Joseph
Parish



Holy Family
Parish



Our Lady of
Victory

A Keeping the Faith Initiative

The Catholic Diocese of Cleveland developed the *Keeping the Faith* (2023) initiative as a guide to promote and enrich Catholic Education not only in the 87 parish elementary schools but also 100 parishes without schools. The intention is to have all parishes engage in collaborations that strengthen and support Catholic Education and our parish communities.

Parishes have been placed in “School groupings” to begin this process. Our grouping, consisting of five parishes and two schools (Holy Family Catholic School, Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School, Holy Family Parish, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, St. Joseph Parish, St. Eugene Parish, and Our Lady of Victory Parish) is one the first groupings to proceed with these collaborations and has been named *Parish Partners for Catholic Education*.

The original publication introducing the *Parish Partners for Catholic Education* initiative was posted on parish websites, appeared in bulletins, and/or mailed to parishioners in 2023. Since then, our five parishes have developed the *Collaborative Strategic Growth Plan 2024-2028*.

The process to develop this plan was facilitated by the Institute for School and Parish Development (ISPD), a national Catholic development consulting firm from New Orleans, Louisiana Area. The firm conducted in-depth interviews at each of the schools and conducted surveys from the five parishes seeking history and perspective on Catholic education. An Executive Committee, a Steering Committee and planning teams which included pastors, school staff, diocesan representatives and parishioners guided the planning process.

The groups collaborated to review eight focal areas based on the diocesan *Keeping the Faith* directives.

1. Catholic Identity
2. Academic Excellence
3. Leadership and Talent
4. Finance
5. Governance
6. Marketing/Communications
7. Enrollment Management
8. Development/Advancement

After identifying parishioners for participation, monthly workshops were held March – December 2023. Planning meetings included identifying challenges, assessing strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities, and proposing solutions. The work of these planning groups was presented to additional parish representatives on December 11, 2023 at the ISPD Convocation. Those attending were also asked to provide feedback on the plan and seek future participation.

Results of this year-long process were recorded as the *Collaborative Strategic Growth Plan 2024-2028*. This plan (42 page document) was presented to the Executive Board – pastors and principals on January 22, 2024. It is available at parish websites and or by contacting the parish rectory.

During Spring 2024, next steps under the direction of the Executive Committee will include confirming recommendations and priorities from the *Collaborative Strategic Growth Plan 2024-2028*. Implementation teams will be formed for each of the eight focal areas to process the recommendations, develop solutions, and build a calendar for implementation.

More information about the implementation of the *Collaborative Strategic Growth Plan 2024-2028* will be forthcoming. If you have an interest in participating in the implementation activities, contact your pastor. We welcome your participation and ask for your prayers as we commit ourselves to enriching Catholic Education.

Parish Partners for Catholic Education Executive Committee



Saint Eugene
Parish



Immaculate Heart
of Mary Parish



Saint Joseph
Parish



Holy Family
Parish



Our Lady of
Victory

Holy Family Parish & School

Reverend Michael McCandless, pastor
Heather Hawk Frank, principal
Amy Rich, business manager

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish & School

Reverend James Singler, pastor
Bibiana Seislove, principal
Jeff Andrea, business manager

Our Lady of Victory

Reverend Michael Matusz, pastor
Nancy Bird, parish council
Linda Herold, pastoral minister

Saint Eugene Parish

Reverend Peter Colletti, pastor
Scott Westberg, business manager

Saint Joseph Parish

Reverend Jared Orndorff, pastor
Melissa Messina-Rodgers, business manager

Strategic Plan Facilitator

Dennis Kowalski, Ed.D.