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**DIOCESE OF
ROCKFORD**

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PRESS RELEASE

Catholic Diocese Shares Update On Plans for Three Rockford-Area Catholic Schools

ROCKFORD—The Catholic Diocese of Rockford has been working on its *Faith Forward* Strategic Plan, which outlines objectives and goals to strengthen Catholic education throughout its 11-county region. Today, the Diocese shared details regarding three schools on Rockford's west side and central city – St. Peter, St. Bernadette and St. James. The three schools will continue to operate independently for the 2018-2019 school year, and will combine into a newly-named multi-parish school for the 2019 – 2020 school year. No final decisions as to school location, programs or name have yet been made.

"We are committed to enhancing the educational program and expanding the extra-curricular opportunities for our students," said Michael Kagan, superintendent of schools for the Catholic Diocese of Rockford. "Making the transition in the 2019-2020 school year gives us time to plan thoughtfully and involve our parishes, schools and families in this exciting process."

Throughout the next 18 - 20 months, a Joint Schools Committee comprised of representatives from all three schools will continue its work in subcommittees to gather data, develop plans and provide recommendations related to facilities (including location), curriculum, finances, governance, personnel, and other important factors relevant to the new school. The committee is charged with making final recommendations to the Diocese in the best interests of the students, families and community.

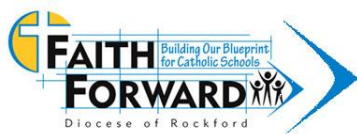
The three schools will continue to share educational resources and strengthen existing collaborations in the 2018-2019 school year.

"Each of our three schools brings a unique history, individual strengths and dedicated families," said Ed Geeser, chair of the Joint Schools Committee. "We're working together to develop a new school that combines and expands our offerings to prepare students for success in the 21st century."

About Catholic Diocese of Rockford

Established in 1908, the Diocese of Rockford is comprised of 105 parishes in Boone, Carroll, DeKalb, JoDaviess, Kane, Lee, McHenry, Ogle, Stephenson, Whiteside and Winnebago Counties in Northern Illinois serving a Catholic population of more than 300,000. For more about the Catholic Diocese of Rockford visit www.rockforddiocese.org.

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**The Strategic Planning
Process for Catholic
Schools in the
Diocese of Rockford**