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Bishop Matthew Clark assembles task force to examine ways of preserving Catholic education

Bishop of Rochester Matthew Clark has assembled a special task force of 23 community leaders from a wide-range of professions to examine ways of strengthening Catholic education in the 12-county Diocese of Rochester.

The task force, which includes school and college educators and administrators, clergy, attorneys, business executives, lay parish leaders and diocesan officials, met for the first time on Sept. 5 and will continue to meet this fall. The work of the group is being facilitated by the Center for Governmental Research, one of the leading policy analysis and research organizations in the Northeast.

“I remain committed to Catholic education and wish to do all that is reasonably possible to ensure that healthy system of Catholic schools be preserved and adequately supported,” Bishop Clark said. “We have brought together this group of caring, creative people from many perspectives and many backgrounds to look at all possible ways we can broaden support for our schools, stabilize and enhance enrollment and continue a tradition that dates back more than 150 years.”

After study and discussion of key issues affecting all aspects of Catholic education, the task force is expected to make recommendations to Bishop Clark.

“It is no secret that Catholic Schools face many challenges unheard of a generation ago,” Bishop Clark said. “At the same time, we also need to brainstorm as-yet unexplored opportunities and new avenues so that our schools can continue to be a vital force in our community and in the formation of tomorrow’s leaders. I am grateful that this task force will not only tackle all the issues in a thoughtful and honest way, but offer advice on how we can both celebrate the past and embrace the future.”

The Diocese of Rochester operates 39 Catholic Schools. More information can be found on the Internet at <http://schools.dor.org>

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