

January 22, 2019

Dear Members of the AOD Catholic School Community,

As part of our continuing efforts to support school growth across the Archdiocese in alignment with the *Unleash the Gospel* pastoral letter (Action Step 3.3C), the AOD Catholic Schools Council and the Office of Catholic Schools is once again requesting that you administer a survey within your school to help inform school improvement and strategic efforts. We received significant feedback last year after the first administration of the survey, and we have worked to significantly reduce the length of the survey and ensure that the questions are appropriate for the respondents. This year's version of the survey is a shortened version of the Catholic Identity Program Effectiveness Survey, which was developed by the Center for Catholic School Effectiveness (Loyola University, Chicago) to align with the National Catholic Standards and Benchmarks. Furthermore, we are only requesting that the survey be administered to three groups:

- a) Parents of current students
- b) Faculty/staff
- c) Students (grades 5-8 and 9-12).

We estimate that it will take respondents approximately 5-10 minutes to complete the online survey.

It is our intent to administer this shortened version of the survey annually in order help school leaders guide and assess individual school improvement efforts, and in the aggregate help the Office of Catholic Schools and the Catholic Schools Council more effectively support our schools. As such, these surveys are intended to help ensure that all students are receiving an academically excellent education in a Christ-centered environment. To aid these efforts, the data will be collected and analyzed by our university partners (led by Dr. Anne Morris at Madonna University) and each school will receive a short report (~2-4 pages) providing summary data related to the four domains of the National Catholic Standards and Benchmarks:

- a) Mission and Catholic Identity
- b) Governance and Leadership
- c) Academic Excellence
- d) Operational Vitality

The report will provide current year summary data compared to last year's data and compared to Vicariate and AOD averages. The Office and Catholic Schools and the Catholic Schools Council will receive a summary report with aggregated results across schools and Vicariates (no individual schools will be identified).

Thank you for your work and dedication to the Church's mission being carried out in our Catholic schools. Following the advice of Blessed Solanus Casey, we thank God ahead of time for what He is accomplishing in our schools through your efforts.

Ben Pogodzinski, PhD
Catholic Schools Council – chair, Academic Excellence Committee