



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

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June 22, 2015

To: Community of Sacred Heart School

My dear people:

In my letter of May 14, 2015 I announced the formation of a Blue Ribbon Committee to address the conflicts which have hindered the smooth operation of Sacred Heart School for many months. The committee has concluded its work and has submitted a report with findings and recommendations. A copy of that report follows this letter.

I do hereby accept and endorse the various items in the report. Through interviews and email submissions the committee has gathered a thorough and comprehensive picture of the situation. I commend the committee for its good work.

I now make the following announcement:

- Mrs. Diane Fontenot has submitted her resignation, effective immediately. Everyone acknowledges the significant contributions she has made to Sacred Heart School in her years as Administrator. Her good work will remain with the school for years to come.

I wish to express my heartfelt appreciation to all who have participated in this process:

- To the Blue Ribbon Committee which gave countless hours to meetings and interviews;
- To all who offered observations, comments and opinions to the committee;
- To Father Vidrine and to Mrs. Fontenot, who cooperated fully in the process;
- To the faculty and staff who have endured great stress in the preceding months;
- To the people of Ville Platte who have anguished during the period of conflict.

I realize that the past few months have been a trying time for all stakeholders in Sacred Heart School. What was very evident throughout was the deep love for the school and dedication to the students by people on all sides. For generations this has been the strength of Sacred Heart School. I pray that the Trojan spirit will live and flourish long into the future.

I realize, too, that the announcements above and the committee report will be received with both approval and with regret. I call on everyone to accept the program outlined and to accept the sacrifices involved. This situation had no easy answers and no solution which would be pleasing to everyone in all respects. Nonetheless, it is a way forward and a path to the smooth and effective operation of a fine Catholic School which is a venerable and beloved institution in the Diocese of Lafayette. I pledge that my staff and I will continue to provide assistance and support in the journey ahead.

With prayers for your good health and for all of God's blessings, I am

Sincerely yours in Our Lord,

+ *Michael Jarrell*

Most Reverend Michael Jarrell  
Bishop of Lafayette

Copy: Reverend Jason Vidrine  
Reverend Mitchell Guidry  
Ms. Anna Larriviere