

# 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.