

## **Bulletin Letter from Pastors to Parishioners in Parishes Supporting Holy Family Regional**

Holy Family Regional School  
2 Indian Head Road  
Commack, New York 11725

June 19, 2020

Dear Parishioners of the Parishes of Christ the King, Saint Joseph, Saint Matthew and Saint Thomas More:

For over fifty years, Holy Family Regional School, formerly Christ the King School, has played a vital role in forming future generations of young Catholics. Originally founded by the Dominican Sisters of Amityville, Holy Family Regional has a long history of achievement.

As you probably are aware, Holy Family Regional School is supported by four area parishes: Christ the King Parish, Commack; the Parish of Saint Joseph, Kings Park; the Parish of Saint Matthew in Dix Hills; and the Parish of Saint Thomas More, Hauppauge. Each of our parishes has been severely financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are writing you today to share some difficult news.

Over the last five years, Holy Family Regional School has seen enrollment drop 43% to 139 students in kindergarten through eighth grade and 38% to 162 students in nursery through eighth grade. In the current school year, the four supporting parishes are anticipated to provide in excess of \$400,000 in operating support, which accounts for more than 30% of the school's total revenues. Given the significant decline in offertory collections due to COVID-19, the parishes are not able to continue this level of support in the 2020-21 school year and beyond.

Following much analysis and discussion with stakeholders at both the diocesan and parish levels, the pastors of the parishes that support our school have together made a difficult decision. We must announce the closing of Holy Family Regional School at the end of the current school year. We did not make this decision lightly and we have prayed long and hard over it. We realize this is a great loss for the Holy Family Regional School families, administrators, teachers and staff and all of our parishes.

We appreciate this is particularly difficult news given the tremendous work each and every one of our dedicated administrators, teachers and staff exhibited during the COVID-19 pandemic. They were heroic in providing our students with a structured sense of normalcy during this most difficult time. However, this closing is due to the financial and enrollment realities mentioned above.

Please know that Holy Family Regional students will be warmly welcomed into any of the excellent Catholic elementary schools in the Diocese of Rockville Centre. School officials and representatives of the Department of Education will assist parents of Holy Family students in the process of selecting and transferring to a new Catholic Elementary School on Long Island.

If you have additional questions, the Department of Education is staffing a telephone information line 516-280-4124 and an email address: [education@drvc.org](mailto:education@drvc.org). It has also set up a special website where you can go for more information: [www.drvcschools.com](http://www.drvcschools.com).

We would like to thank the Dominican Sisters of Amityville for bringing the great gift of Catholic education to the Commack area. We also want to thank our teachers and staff both past and present, and all of our school parents for their spiritual and fruitful works of their time, treasure and talent over the years.

Thank you for your commitment to Catholic education and for all you sacrificed for our Church and school. We also thank the Diocese, and in particular the Board of the Education Corporation, for their considerable guidance and support over the past few years in our efforts to make this school succeed.

Please know that you and your families are in our prayers.

Sincerely yours In Christ,

Father Robert Hewes, Executive Pastor  
Holy Family Regional School  
Pastor of Parish of Saint Matthew

Father Peter J. Dugandzic, Pastor  
Parish of Saint Joseph

Father Antony Asir, Pastor  
Parish of Saint Thomas More

Father Robert Ketcham, Pastor  
Parish of Christ the King