

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SPOKANE

Office of the Bishop

March 16, 2017

Dear Board of Directors,

Since becoming your bishop nearly two years ago, I have outlined three principal goals which have served as a guide for our pastoral focus in the diocese. These three goals include strengthening the Catholic education and formation of our children, promoting vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life, and personal growth in holiness, which leads to the salvation of souls.

As you may know, I attended Catholic schools my entire life. My goal of supporting and strengthening Catholic education flows from this experience as well as over two decades of priestly service as a Catholic high school chaplain, teacher, and administrator. These realities continue to affirm my commitment to strengthening Catholic schools in the Diocese of Spokane.

I have studied the form of governance at Cataldo Catholic School which has been in place since 2010. For the past seven years, the Cataldo Board of Directors has been vested with limited jurisdiction and its decisions have been final and binding in matters over which it exercises jurisdiction. This is unique in the 102 year history of our school. It is also out of step with the other Catholic elementary schools in the City of Spokane.

As part of my own evaluation of the present form of governance, I have been in conversation with the Office of Education, Dr. Mark Selle, the Episcopal Vicars, and the pastors of the three parishes who partner with Cataldo – St. Augustine, Sacred Heart, and the Cathedral. I have come to the conclusion that Cataldo needs to return to a form of governance that is in harmony with the history of the school and the common practice of the overwhelming number of Catholic elementary schools with which I am familiar. I believe this is the most prudent model for the long term stability and growth of our school.

Therefore, I am asking that the governance of Cataldo Catholic School be returned to the pastors of St. Augustine, Sacred Heart, and the rector of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Lourdes. I would like this change to become effective no later than July 1, 2017.

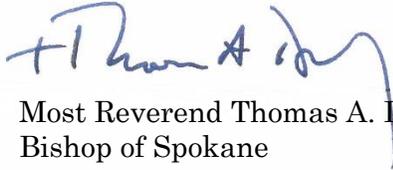
Over the course of the next two months, I would like to ask the current members of the Board to discuss the various recommendations you may have regarding this transition. As Cataldo moves to a standard parochial school model, there are a few issues which will need to be addressed. I am particularly interested in suggestions regarding the parameters of governance by the three pastors. Any recommendations you have should include a mechanism for allowing meaningful consultation with a variety of laypeople. Cataldo has a rich talent pool of dedicated parents and alumni. It is essential that we benefit from their passion and expertise.

I am open to any suggestions/observations you may have on this matter as I want what is best for the future operation of the school. Following your discussion, please submit your recommendations to the Vicar General for my review. We will have a firm governance plan in place and announced by July 1st.

This letter gives me the opportunity to express my gratitude to you for your service on the Board of Directors for Cataldo Catholic School as well as to thank you in advance for your continued involvement in this vital mission of the Church. As your bishop, I want you to know that I am deeply committed to building upon your sacrifice for sake of faithfully passing on our faith for generations to come.

I ask for the prayers of Our Lady of Lourdes, patroness of our diocese, for the entire Cataldo community as I remain,

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Thomas A. Daly". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail that extends downwards and to the right.

Most Reverend Thomas A. Daly, DD
Bishop of Spokane