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## **DIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH FINALIZES ACQUISITION OF CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP SITE FOR NEW HIGH SCHOOL**

Pittsburgh – The Diocese of Pittsburgh announced that it has completed the purchase of land in Cranberry Township for the purpose of building a new co-educational Catholic high school.

The 71-acre site is located on State Rte. 228 across from the new St. Kilian Catholic elementary school.

Bishop David A. Zubik stated that the success of a capital campaign to raise the significant funds necessary for the new school will determine whether the Diocese of Pittsburgh can proceed. Work on the project will begin only when and if sufficient funding is available.

The new co-educational school will be the largest building project undertaken by the Diocese of Pittsburgh in recent history. The estimated total cost of building the new high school to serve as many as 1,000 students is between \$54-60 million.

Bishop Zubik said that the proposed school “will provide young men and women a 21<sup>st</sup>-century education in an environment where values and faith thrive – which is the very definition of Catholic education.”

“Our goal is to create the pre-eminent private co-educational high school situated in the fastest growing population center in Southwestern Pennsylvania,” stated Father Kris D. Stubna, diocesan Secretary for Catholic Education.

“With an academic program and physical plant to serve the needs of our families and Pittsburgh as a whole for years to come, the proposed school will be a model of Catholic education for the entire country – academic excellence, value-centered, faith-filled and family-based,” Father Stubna said.

Plans for the new Catholic high school in Butler County grew out of the efforts already underway at North Catholic High School in the Troy Hill section of Pittsburgh.

Preliminary plans for the new high school will incorporate the best of the educational program currently in place at North Catholic High School, while expanding and strengthening that program in every facet of school life.

“With its foundational hallmarks of academic excellence and faith formation, the new high school will build on the strengths and tradition of the current North Catholic High School program and provide a superb and competitive program in every facet of the curricular and extra-curricular program,” Father Stubna said.

“While the scope of the project and the budget are being finalized,” Father Stubna said, “it is clear that a substantial commitment of capital in the form of gifts and external financing will be necessary.

“To date, North Catholic High School’s capital campaign has raised about \$5 million in cash, pledges and in-kind gifts. The Diocese of Pittsburgh, the North Catholic High School community, and the community as a whole will be working together in the coming months in the effort to raise the financial support necessary for the project to proceed,” Father Stubna said.

Frank Orga, president of North Catholic High School, stated that the new high school will make certain that “the Marianist charism that sustained North Catholic High school will continue at the new high school. “Marianist education is grounded in faith, family, spirit and service,” Mr. Orga said. Noting that the Marianist community will continue to be a part of the spirit of the new high school, Mr. Orga explained that “we will be building a place where our values will live and the rich heritage of North Catholic High School will continue to serve our community.”

“This is an exciting moment in the history of Catholic education in our diocese. The proposal for a new Catholic high school in Butler Country that will build on the rich heritage of North Catholic High School is a sign of real growth and commitment by our entire Catholic community to the value of Catholic education,” Bishop Zubik stated. “We have the opportunity to do something hugely important for the future of our children and youth. It is my sincere hope that many people will help us to make this dream become a reality.”