



SAINT CAMILLUS CATHOLIC ACADEMY

185 BEACH 99TH STREET
ROCKAWAY PARK, NY 11694
(718) 634-5260

February 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It is with deep regret and profound sadness that we announce, by means of this letter, the closure of St. Camillus Catholic Academy, effective 30 June 2019.

This difficult decision was reached, following extensive consultations, due to the continuing economic challenges faced by the Academy and a rapidly decreasing pool of students choosing Catholic school education in our area. For the current school year, 2018-2019, our budget shows a deficit of \$21,847 following two years of deficits (\$64,095 in 2017-2018 and \$38,172 in 2016-2017). In addition the fund balance in the Academy is only \$156,883. What that means is that the Academy has limited funds to meet expenses. At this time the Academy owes the Diocese \$55,047 for medical, pension and assessment. As of December 31, 2018, we have tuition amounting to \$114,422 which is yet to be billed.

Enrollment is down almost 25 percent from 5 years ago, with just 106 students in Kindergarten through 8th grade. While the cost of educating a child exceeds \$10,000 per year, the tuition for one child is just \$4,150 for Catholic families and \$5,500 for non-Catholic families. Even with significant additional fundraising efforts from our shrinking team of families, the Academy does not have the means to continue subsidizing tuition.

Despite the best efforts of our principal, faculty, staff and Board to market St. Camillus Catholic Academy, the fact remains that the Academy has lost about 35 students in the past five years. This school year our average class size is just 12 students. While it may seem that a small class size is desirable, tuition for this type of education normally approaches \$15,000 or more.

To attempt to continue the Academy while further curtailing academic services and extra-curricular activities would be a serious disservice to your sons and daughters. Also, the necessary staff constrictions would contribute to the deterioration of the total educational program.

The Diocesan Office of the Superintendent of Schools~Catholic School Support Services, in conjunction with the Academy administration, will make every effort to transition the students to other Catholic elementary schools, if parents choose this important option. The communities of St. Francis de Sales Catholic Academy, St. Rose of Lima Catholic Academy, Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy, St. Helen Catholic Academy, St. Bernard Catholic Academy and Midwood Catholic Academy have all extended invitations to our families to consider registering. These schools are in close proximity to the homes of our students.

WWW.SAINTCAMILLUSACADEMY.COM

For the benefit of our parents and students, an Information Night will be held here at St. Camillus Catholic Academy on Wednesday, 13 February, 7 – 9 PM. Administrators and personnel from neighboring Catholic Academies will be available to present their programs and answer questions you may have. Also, please know that the Diocese of Brooklyn, through the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Trust, will provide a one-time \$500 financial grant for each St. Camillus Catholic Academy child enrolling and attending an alternative Catholic Academy or School next year.

The closure of an Academy is not easy for anyone involved. However, please understand the efforts that have been made and continue to be made on behalf of your children.

Let us pray for one another at this time.

Sincerely,



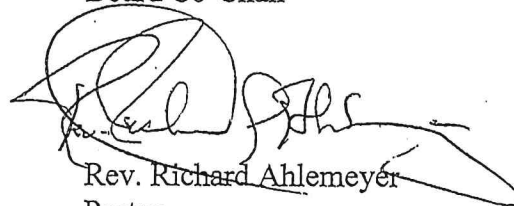
Raffaele Corso
Principal



Ann Mc Dougall
Board Co-Chair



Joe Young
Board Co-Chair



Rev. Richard Ahlemeyer
Pastor