This past weekend Bishop Zubik announced specific changes to a number of Catholic education programs in schools in the Pittsburgh-East Region, namely the merger of North American Martyrs and Saint Bernadette Schools in Monroeville and the closure of Saint Rosalia Academy in Greenfield. These changes were the result of the work and consultation conducted by the Pittsburgh-East Regional Catholic Elementary Schools Advisory Board.

While no other immediate changes are being recommended for the other schools in the Pittsburgh-East Region, the Advisory Board is continuing its work in earnest towards a more regional approach to Catholic education and to strengthen our Catholic schools.

In the meantime, the Advisory Board recommends that all schools in the region develop a three to five-year strategic plan for enrollment and financial stability and sustainability, as well as address the marketing needs of the school. The Advisory Board will prepare a template for this plan that will be shared in the coming months. Also, in those schools where the enrollment in middle school (grades 5-8) is smaller, every effort should be made to combine extra-curricular activities with a neighboring school.

Please pray for the continued success of this initiative and for all those involved in this important effort on behalf of Catholic education in the East region of our diocese.

Visit diopitt.org/pgh-east to stay informed.