



Diocese of Springfield in Illinois

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Office of the Bishop

DECREE

PROMULGATING THE FAMILY SCHOOL AGREEMENT POLICY FOR THE DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD IN ILLINOIS, AN ILLINOIS NOT FOR PROFIT CORPORATION

In order to promote Catholic education in the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois;

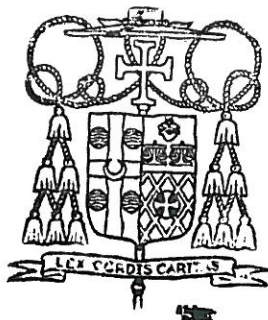
Having heard the Presbyteral Council at its July 15, 2015 meeting;

In keeping with my legislative authority as Diocesan Bishop of Springfield in Illinois for the governance of the local Church of Springfield in Illinois in accord with the norm of law (canon 391, §1);

I hereby issue this general decree (canon 29), the text of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof as though fully set forth herein and which is entitled the "Family School Agreement Policy," as particular law for said diocese.

The provisions of this policy shall become effective on July 20, 2015, any particular legislation, directives, or instructions to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at the Chancery, Springfield, Illinois this 15th day of July, 2015.



+ Thomas John Paprocki

Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki
Bishop of Springfield in Illinois

Peter T. Maas

Ecclesiastical Notary

FAMILY SCHOOL AGREEMENT POLICY FOR THE DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD IN ILLINOIS, AN ILLINOIS NOT FOR PROFIT CORPORATION

§3404 FAMILY SCHOOL AGREEMENT

Our Catholic schools in the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois are open to all students, however we are not simply a private or alternative school system. The purpose of Catholic education is to provide an environment of academic excellence where students learn how to become committed disciples of Jesus Christ, to grow in holiness as stewards of God's creation, share the Good News of Christ's love with others and invite them to join us in the Christian community of the Catholic Church. The Family School Agreement is intended to further these purposes.

3404.1 Policy In consideration for enrolling their child(ren) in a Catholic school in the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois, parent(s)/adoptive parent(s)/legal guardian(s) shall sign a Family School Agreement indicating that they 1) understand and agree that children in the school will be taught the teachings of the Catholic Church in their fullness, 2) accept a commitment to the stewardship way of life as practiced in their parish, 3) pledge their full cooperation with the school and parish to prepare their child(ren) to be a disciple of Jesus Christ, and 4) will make every effort to supervise their child(ren)'s commitment to this agreement.

3404.2 Policy If the parent(s)/adoptive parent(s)/legal guardian(s) sign the Family School Agreement, the pastor and principal shall also sign the Family School Agreement indicating that they 1) accept the request of the parent(s)/adoptive parent(s)/legal guardian(s) for a Catholic education and their commitment to the stewardship way of life, 2) acknowledge their obligation to assist the parent(s)/adoptive parent(s)/legal guardian(s) in their task of nurturing their child(ren) in the practice of the Catholic faith and 3) will make their best effort to form the child(ren) of the parent(s)/adoptive parent(s)/legal guardian(s) as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Procedures

- a) All children are welcome in the Catholic schools in the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois provided their parent(s)/adoptive parent(s)/legal guardian(s) sign and agree to the terms of the Family School Agreement.
- b) It is understood that our schools exist to pass on the Catholic faith for children as well as for their parent(s)/adoptive parent(s)/legal guardian(s) to grow in holiness living as disciples of Jesus Christ.
- c) All children will be taught the Catholic faith in its fullness, regardless of the situation of their parent(s)/adoptive parent(s)/legal guardian(s).
- d) Parent(s)/adoptive parent(s)/legal guardian(s) not living in accord with Church teaching are expected to discuss with the pastor of their Catholic parish ways in which we hope they could.
- e) Special attention is to be given to discussion of moral issues that may be problematic for the parent(s)/adoptive parent(s)/legal guardian(s) prior to signing the Family School Agreement.

3404.3 Policy Failure to abide by the terms of the Family School Agreement shall be grounds for the child(ren)'s expulsion from the school.

Procedures

- a) Parent(s)/adoptive parent(s)/legal guardian(s) and students who cause public scandal by actively promoting a moral or doctrinal position contrary to Catholic teaching or by making a public issue of their state in life contrary to Catholic teaching shall be considered in violation of the Family School Agreement.
- b) These policies and procedures deal with the future and not with the past (see canon 9 of the *Code of Canon Law*).