



**Diocese of Pittsburgh**

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*Office of the Bishop*

February 13, 2012

Reverend Phillip P. Pribonic  
Saint Joan of Arc Parish  
6414 Montour Street  
South Park, PA 15129-9514

Dear Father Pribonic:

Having received your February 8, 2012 letter, I acknowledge your request for permission to close Saint Joan of Arc School at the end of the 2011–2012 school year. I note that this request follows on extensive consultation with parishioners, parents and the diocesan Department for Catholic Schools to determine the viability of the school and the best possible way to continue to provide a Catholic school education for the children of Saint Joan of Arc Parish.

Your letter indicates the continued concern over low enrollments, the high per-pupil costs, rising tuition costs and increased parish subsidy projected for school operations. This is due in large part to the loss of significant funding from a benefactor. While there have been great efforts of school parents and parishioners in creating financial stability for school operations, you note that the small student enrollment and increasing financial challenges make it impossible for the school to continue. Your request has been reviewed carefully by Reverend Kris D. Stubna, diocesan Secretary for Catholic Education, and Dr. Robert L. Paserba, Superintendent for Catholic Schools, with whom you have worked closely on this matter.

In light of the above mentioned factors, and in view of the consultation process involving parishioners, the school administration, the diocesan Department for Catholic Schools and many others, I grant permission at your request for Saint Joan of Arc Parish to close Saint Joan of Arc School, effective at the end of the 2011–2012 school year. In doing so, I also want to recognize the tremendous efforts of so many parents and parishioners who have worked hard over the past number of years in support of the school.

This permission is granted with the clear understanding that the children of parishioners of Saint Joan of Arc Parish will be encouraged and assisted in every way possible to attend another available Catholic school and that the parish will support Catholic schools by adhering to the diocesan policies for financing elementary schools. Given the importance of Catholic schools, I know that you will encourage your parishioners to continue their support for Catholic education.

Grateful for our belief that “Nothing is Impossible with God,” I am

Your brother in Christ,

*+ David A. Zubik*

Most Reverend David A. Zubik  
Bishop of Pittsburgh

DAZ:jkb

cc: Reverend Kris D. Stubna, S.T.D.  
Dr. Robert L. Paserba