



**ARCHDIOCESE OF ANCHORAGE-JUNEAU**  
**OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP**

October 26, 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with us always.

I am writing to update you on my letter from Friday, October 22. Sadly, to my knowledge, the members of the Board of Trustees of Holy Rosary Academy have not accepted the minimum standards (terms and conditions) that I had specified as required for a Catholic school in our new Archdiocese.

I want to acknowledge that I have received requests and expressions of concern from parents and Catholics in the Anchorage area wanting me to reconsider my decision. I understand the concerns and frustration with this situation and I share in their disappointment. It does worry me that some children and parents feel they are being abandoned by their Archdiocese. It is important for me to express that I have always kept the care, education and safety of the children and all Catholics of the Archdiocese in the forefront of my decision.

As your Archbishop, I am ultimately responsible for every Catholic institution in the Archdiocese of Anchorage-Juneau, including any privately owned and operated Catholic school. I have insisted that the members of the Board of Trustees accept the minimum standards that I specified in order to fulfill my obligation under Church law to protect all of the people of God in this Archdiocese, including those served by Holy Rosary Academy. In any diocese, it is the bishop who has the authority to determine whether a school is a Catholic school.

I respect the right of the members of the Board of Trustees to make decisions for Holy Rosary Academy. The Board of Trustees cannot expect the privileges of a Catholic school without accepting the obligations of this recognition. I have clearly explained what is necessary to grant Catholic recognition to Holy Rosary Academy in the new Archdiocese of Anchorage-Juneau. I want to do so, but it is impossible for me to grant recognition without acceptance of the minimum standards that I specified.

Regrettably, as of today, October 26, 2021, I do not recognize Holy Rosary Academy as a Catholic school. Holy Rosary Academy does not have the obligations or privileges of a Catholic school in the Archdiocese of Anchorage-Juneau. The students, parents, families, staff and supporters of Holy Rosary Academy will always be welcome to celebrate Mass and receive the sacraments in their own parishes. If, at any time, the members of the Board of Trustees decide to agree to accept and adhere to the minimum standards of a Catholic school as I have specified, they are welcome to request recognition of Holy Rosary Academy as a Catholic school in the Archdiocese of Anchorage-Juneau.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Andrew E. Bellisario, C.M.  
Archbishop of Anchorage-Juneau