



The Spirit of '76

LOCAL 1776
Association of Catholic Teachers

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This is, indeed, a sad day for Catholic education in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. The Association of Catholic Teachers is extremely disheartened by the announcement of the Blue Ribbon Commission's recommendations for the future of Catholic education. The closing of these schools will have a tremendously negative impact on all teachers, students and parents in our schools. The neighborhoods surrounding the affected schools will also suffer.

Two years ago, the Archdiocese announced that the closing of both Cardinal Dougherty High School and Northeast Catholic High School would shore up the System and make our remaining schools viable and sustainable.

Today, we were told that instead of two schools, the Archdiocese now finds it necessary to close 4 more high schools.

The Association mourns the loss of these schools. We will be working with the teachers as they go through the grieving process. We also grieve

the loss of 44 elementary schools, because their closing will negatively affect the future enrollment in our high schools, further threatening the future of Catholic education as we know it.

The elementary closings strip our elementary colleagues of their jobs. Unfortunately, these teachers have no contract to protect them, no procedure to ensure their future employment like the one contained in the high school negotiated contract and no ability to extend health benefits beyond August 31, 2012.

The Association will be working very hard over the next several months to make the transition of our high school teachers to their new schools as smooth and painless as possible.

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