



St. Malachi Parish

Eucharistic People, United in Prayer, Welcoming to All, Serving the Poor

December 15, 2018

Dear Parishioners,

Urban Community School (UCS) announced this past week that a decision taken by the Board of Trustees will drastically change its relationship with the Diocese of Cleveland and consequently with the Catholic Church. The decision has to do with the agreement to build a MetroHealth center on the campus of the school. As a public entity, MetroHealth will not agree to follow Catholic Health Care ethical guidelines. This will have consequences going forward.

The Ursuline Sisters will no longer sponsor the school, and UCS will no longer be considered a Catholic School. While the School is promising to continue religious education, it is unclear what that means given the break in the relationship with the Diocese. Sacramental preparation will revert to the parishes from which the students come, but it is unclear now how this will happen.

Urban Community School was formed 50 years ago with the merger of St. Patrick and St. Malachi Schools, and later with the addition of St. Wendelin, where UCS was housed until moving to the current Lorain Road Campus. But the heritage of the school goes back nearly 150 years to the founding of St. Patrick. The three parishes who were instrumental to the founding and growth of the school will no longer be affiliated as we have in the past. This is truly an unfortunate situation. To be clear, the three pastors, who are all board members, did not and do not support this action. We would have preferred other options be explored.

While UCS will no longer be recognized as a school affiliated with our parishes, the school remains an important contributor to serving the many low-income and otherwise at-risk families within our community. As their neighbor, Saint Malachi and our partner parishes recognizes the good that they have done - and will continue to do - in the local area.

In the new year, our parish, together with our partners St. Patrick and St. Wendelin, will need to explore how we will shape the future of Catholic Religious Formation in our parishes and neighborhoods. We intend to begin meeting with parents and other interested parties, so we can explore potential relationships and forge a new way forward.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Thomas Mahoney
Administrator

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