

**Diocese of Duluth
School Need Study – 1999**

Final Report

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**Diocese of Duluth
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Summary

The Diocese of Duluth with the assistance of the Bureau of Business and Economic Research, University of Minnesota Duluth undertook a survey of six regions within the Diocese to determine the need for a Catholic middle school and/or a high school.

The study included all parents of children currently in Catholic elementary schools, all current teachers in these schools, all priests in the Diocese, plus a list of other leaders in the Diocese and a stratified random sample of approximately 300 church members from each region in the Diocese. The Diocese office provided mailing lists. A total of 3,618 questionnaires were mailed.

A short questionnaire was developed in consultation with the Diocese, pretested and mailed in early August 1999. Priests and teachers received their questionnaires somewhat before others in each parish. The questionnaire was mailed with a cover letter from the Bishop and notices about the survey were included in parish newsletters. A follow-up postcard and a second mailing were sent to those who had not responded. Non-respondents were identified as those who did not mail back a postcard that included their address label but was mailed separately to preserve the anonymity of their questionnaire responses. Several respondents included their names but names were eliminated from in the SPSS database. The overall response rate for the study was 54% with a regional range from 40% for Pine City to 61% for Duluth, 62% for all teachers and 67% for all priests. This rate was lower than expected for a special population on a topic presumed to be highly important to them.

This report provides responses from the questionnaire organized into 7 main tables. Table 1 provides overall Diocese data for priests, key leaders and teachers. Tables 2 through 7 provide data by region. Figures are included which provide open-ended comments on several questions. Where the number of responses is sufficient, data are shown for parents of children in Catholic elementary schools, a random sample of parishioners, key leaders, teachers, and priests. Questions asked of priests and teachers were somewhat different from those asked of the other groups (i.e. parents, the random sample of parishioners and key leaders). For example, teachers and priests were asked for their assessment of parishioner's support and ability to afford the proposed schools. Respondents in the Pine City, International Falls and the Grand Rapids areas were asked an added question about willingness to send their children to a Catholic middle and/or high school in another nearby region.

In general, a majority of respondents favored having a middle and/or high school in their area. Those groups most favoring some type of school (middle and/or high school) were Brainerd parents (93%), Hibbing/Virginia teachers (90%), Duluth parents and teachers (85%), and all Diocese teachers (81%). Among those most against any school were International Falls parishioners (42%), Pine City parishioners (38%), and all priests in the Diocese (37%). Parishioners and priests saw least need for these schools and parents and teachers tended to see most need with key leaders somewhere in between.

While a strong majority would support such a school in prayer or financially (56% overall), a substantial percentage indicated that would not. Duluth, Brainerd, and Hibbing/Virginia

respondents were most supportive (77%, 73%, and 71% respectively). Other regions had over half of respondents supportive of the school idea (62% in Pine City, 58% in both International Falls and Grand Rapids). Two thirds of all teachers felt that people in the parish would be supportive while only 35% of Diocese priests had the same assessment of support.

Most respondents with children felt they could not afford the projected \$4,500 to \$5,500 annual tuition or would have considerable difficulty in doing so (from 84% for Pine City respondents to 75% among Grand Rapids respondents and 71% for Duluth respondents). Eighty-three percent of all teachers and 93% of all priests felt that parents would have considerable difficulty or could not afford the proposed tuition.

While a substantial percentage of parents of children currently in a Catholic elementary school indicated their child would likely attend a Catholic middle and/or high school if one were available (59% for Duluth, 56% for Brainerd and 54% for International Falls respondents), there was a substantial percentage that felt their child would be unlikely to attend such a school (52% for Pine City, 39% for Hibbing/Virginia, to 26% for Duluth respondents).

If a school were created, there appears to be little current concern about whether it is a remodeled building or new construction, but virtually all (about 90% or more) envision technology and core academic programs as highest priority. Of those with children, most would prefer that their child travel less than 10 miles one way to school (overall 56%). Among respondents in the three regions that were asked, virtually no one would like their child to attend a Catholic middle and/or high school located in another nearby region.

Some demographic questions were asked. As expected, most respondents considered themselves and their spouses Catholic (87% for respondents and 61% for spouses). A majority was married (76% to 84%). Women tended to undertake the task of responding to the questionnaire (70%). The sample averaged 50 years of age, although parents were about a decade younger, and they lived an average of 27 years in their region (except for priests who had a half to a third as much experience in their regions, averaging 12 years, overall). Respondents (excluding teachers and priests) also reported having a considerable amount of education. Regions varied from 80% reporting with at least some college experience for Duluth to 50% for Pine City. Respondents took the survey seriously enough to provide a substantial amount of added written commentary on the issue. These comments generally support more structured questionnaire responses. Comments are listed in figures throughout the text. Questionnaires are provided in the appendix of this report.

Diocese-wide Responses of Priests, Teachers and Key Leaders

Table 1 and figure 1 provide Diocese-wide data on responses by priests, teachers and key leaders. As shown in Table 1, line 1, a majority of each group supports creating a Catholic middle and/or high school (51% of priests, 81% of teachers, and 63% of key leaders). While a substantial percentage of priests and key leaders have no current opinion on the issue (12% and 18% respectively), over a third (37%) of priests see no need for either type of school and almost a fifth (19%) of key leaders share that opinion. Sixteen percent of teachers see no need for either type of school. These percentages are aggregated across regions within the Diocese. The degree of support by those within a region is shown in later sections of this report.

Among those who saw a need for a Catholic middle and/or high school (or who had not yet developed an opinion), only teachers and key leaders expressed a relatively clear preference for one of the school models, in this case a middle school (71% vs. 52% for teachers and 66% vs. 51% for key leaders). This is shown in Table 1, line 2. A substantial percentage of each group indicated other preferred models, often suggesting a minor variation on the two main models they had chosen. Figure 1a lists open-ended responses regarding the type of school model that was preferred.

Virtually all groups favored selecting the most cost-effective type of building (Table 1, line 3), either new or remodeled construction. Thus the type of building appears not to be a particularly salient issue at this point.

Among those who may feel there is some need for these schools, the top ranked type of program was *computer technology skills* (83% of priests, 92% of teachers and 91% of key leaders expressed this view). Ninety percent of responding key leaders felt that *science labs* should be involved. Among the programs listed that received least support were extra curricular activities (43% of priests, 65% of teachers, and 62% of key leaders), drama (52% of priests, 63% of teachers, and 57% of key leaders), and work skills training (43% of priests, 65% of teachers, and 62% of key leaders). A fifth to a quarter of respondents indicated other desired programs (listed in the appendix). Respondents envision a technologically and academically strong program that is more college oriented than work skill oriented. Comments on programs by these three groups are shown in Figure 1b, below. Several priests and key leaders noted religion, an option not included in the checklist.

A majority of priests and teachers thought that parents would like to have their children attend a Catholic middle and/or high school (69% of priests and 86% of Catholic elementary school teachers). This question was not asked of key leaders although they were asked how likely it would be that one or more of their children would attend such a school if it were available. While 33% of those with children at home said it was unlikely, 49% checked one of the two categories indicating that their child would likely enroll (Table 1, line 10). Priests and teachers were asked about potential issues should schools be pursued. Most comments related to cost and whether or not there is likely to be a sufficient population to support the schools. These comments are shown in Figure 1c.

Table 1
Responses by Priests, Teachers and Leaders to Questions about the Need for Catholic Middle or High Schools, Overall, Diocese of Duluth, 1999¹.

| Items | Priests | Teachers | Key Leaders |
|---|--|--|--|
| 1. In your judgment, is there a need for a Catholic middle school and/or a Catholic high school in the Duluth area? Yes, we need a Catholic middle school Yes, we need a Catholic high school Yes, we need both schools No current opinion No need for either school (skip to #5) <i>Totals</i> | 10% 8 33 12 <u>37</u> 100% (60) ² | 23% 10 48 3 <u>16</u> 100% (116) | 17% 8 38 18 <u>19</u> 100% (237) |
| 2. Which of the following models do you think the Diocese should pursue at this time? <i>Model 1:</i> Middle school (grades 6-8) with location in this area, about 200 enrollment, 1/20 teacher student ratio, full academic and religious curriculum extra curricular programs, annual tuition \$4,500 to \$5,500 per person, opening in 1-5 years. <i>Model 2:</i> High school (grades 9-12) with location in this area, about 200 enrollment, 1/20 teacher student ratio, full academic and religious curriculum, extra curricular programs annual tuition \$4,500 to \$5,500 per person, opening in 1-5 years. <i>Other preferred model:</i> | 50% (36) 58% (36) 58% (36) | 71% (97) 52% (97) 28% (97) | 66% (172) 51% (172) 26% (172) |
| 3. Should a Catholic middle school or Catholic high school be: New Construction A remodeled existing building if available New or existing building depending on the most cost-effective. <i>Totals</i> | 16% 14 <u>70</u> 100% (37) | 8% 3 <u>89</u> 100% (96) | 10% 14 <u>76</u> 100% (169) |

¹ Teachers and key leaders include some respondents who are both.

² A number in parentheses is the total number of respondents (100%) upon which the percentages are based.

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Table 1, Diocese, continued

| Items | Priests | Teachers | Key Leaders |
|--|------------|------------|---------------|
| 4. What key programs should a Catholic middle school and/or high school have, in addition to a strong Catholic identity? | | | |
| Sports | 48% | 60% | 64% |
| Computer technology skills | 83% | 92% | 91% |
| Science labs | 64% | 85% | 90% |
| Music | 74% | 86% | 82% |
| Drama | 52% | 63% | 57% |
| Arts | 57% | 78% | 68% |
| Literature | 81% | 75% | 70% |
| World languages | 64% | 78% | 79% |
| College prep | 60% | 84% | 83% |
| Work skills training | 40% | 60% | 64% |
| Extra curricular activities | 43% | 65% | 62% |
| Other desired programs (please list) | 29% | 28% | 20% |
| Base of each percentage | (42) | (100) | (170) |
| 5. Parents in this area would like to have their children attend a Catholic middle or high school | 69% (52) | 86% (110) | N/A |
| 6. Parishioner's would be supportive of establishing a Catholic middle or high school in the area. | 34% (56) | 67% (105) | N/A |
| 7. Would you be willing to support (in prayer and/or financially through your parish) a Catholic middle school or high school if the diocese decided that there was a need for such a school in your area? | | | |
| No | N/A | N/A | 25% |
| Yes | | | <u>75</u> |
| Totals | | | 100% (221) |
| 8. Has children living at home? | N/A | N/A | 38% (235) |
| 9. School grade of children living at home | | | |
| 1 | | | 8% |
| 2 | | | 7 |
| 3 | | | 9 |
| 4 | | | 9 |
| 5 | | | 7 |
| 6 | N/A | N/A | 7 |
| 7 | | | 11 |
| 8 | | | 11 |
| 9 | | | 4 |
| 10 | | | 11 |
| 11 | | | 8 |
| 12 | | | 7 |
| College | | | 0 |
| Totals | | | 100% (177) |

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Table 1, Diocese, continued

| Items | Priests | Teachers | Key Leaders |
|---|---|---|--|
| 10. How likely is it that one or more of your children would attend a Catholic middle school or Catholic high school if one were available? <i>Very unlikely to attend</i> 2 3 4 Very likely to attend Totals | N/A | N/A | 33% 8 12 23 26 100% (96) |
| 11. How far would you be willing to have your child travel (by car or bus) to attend a Catholic middle school or Catholic high school if one were available? Up to 4 miles one way <i>5 to 9 miles one way</i> 10 to 19 miles one way 20 or more miles one way Totals | N/A | N/A | 17% 39 30 14 100% (86) |
| 12. Tuition projections suggest that the yearly cost would be about \$4,500. To \$5,500 per pupil per year. How difficult would it be for your family to afford this level of tuition? Could not afford <i>Would have considerable difficulty</i> Probably could afford Definitely could afford Totals | 36% ³ 58 7 -- 100% (59) | 30% ⁴ 53 17 -- 100% (110) | 19% 30 26 25 100% (93) |
| 13. Marital status Currently married Single, never married Widow/widower Separated or divorced Other Totals | N/A | N/A | 81% 4 11 3 1 100% (246) |
| 14. Average age of respondent | 59 years | 45 years | 58 years |

³ Priests were asked for their estimate of whether families in the area could afford such schooling.

⁴ Teachers were asked for their estimate of whether families in the area could afford such schooling

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Table 1, Diocese, continued

| Items | Priests | Teachers | Key Leaders |
|--|---|--|--|
| 15. Respondent's gender Male Female Totals | N/A | N/A | 49% <u>51</u> 100% (237) |
| 16. Average years in this community | 12 years | 22 years | 32 years |
| 17. Respondent's religious affiliation – Percent Catholic | N/A | N/A | 97% (241) |
| 18. Spouse's religious affiliation – Percent Catholic | N/A | N/A | 87% (204) |
| 19. Respondent's education Grade school or less Some high school High school graduate Some vocational school Vocational school graduate Some college College graduate Some post graduate college Post graduate or professional degree Totals | N/A | N/A | 1% 2 10 3 4 18 <u>24</u> 13 <u>25</u> 100% (253) |
| 20. Would enjoy being in a parish with a middle or high school. Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree Totals | 22% <u>41</u> 20 <u>17</u> 100% (59) | 24% <u>56</u> 17 <u>4</u> 100% (81) | N/A |
| 21. Made comments on back of questionnaire (see listing in appendix) | 24% (63) | 25% (118) | 30% (251) |

Priests and teachers were also asked if they thought parishioners would be supportive of establishing a Catholic middle and/or high school in their area. About a third of priests and two-thirds of teachers thought parishioners would be supportive. Key leaders were asked if they would be supportive and 75% indicated they would be (see Table 1, line 7).

Table 1, line 9 shows a percentage distribution of the grade level of the 177 children of key leaders. This provides some idea of the percentage of their children who would be eligible for a middle and/or high school. For example, 11% of the 177 children of key leaders (about 19 children) are now in 8th grade and would be eligible for a high school if one were available for the 2000 school term.

The majority of key leaders (69%) would be willing to have their child travel from 5 to 19 miles to a Catholic middle and/or high school (Table 1, line 11). When asked how difficult it would be to afford the estimated \$4,500 to \$5,500 annual cost of such an education, 19% of key leaders said they could not afford it and 30% felt it would pose considerable difficulty for their family. About half (51%) said they probably or definitely could afford the cost. Priests and teachers were asked their opinion about the affordability of this education for parishioners in their area and most felt it could not be afforded or would pose considerable difficulty (94% of priests and 83% of teachers).

Background information was asked of respondents. On average teachers were younger than priests or key leaders (45 vs. 59 and 58 years of age respectively). On the other hand, priests had about a half to a third of the years in the community (12 years) as compared to teachers (22 years) and key leaders (32 years).

Key leaders were asked their marital status (81% are currently married), about half of the respondents were women, 97% were Catholic and 87% had Catholic spouses. Over half (62%) were at least college graduates.

Priests and teachers generally felt they would enjoy having a Catholic middle and/or high school in their parish area (63% of priests and 80% of Catholic elementary school teachers).

Figure 1a: Comments on Models by Priests, Teachers and Key Leaders

Comments by All Priests:

What people support
Under \$2000
Tuition vs. expenses
Tuition vouchers
Tuition \$3000-3500
Through 12
Teacher ratio

Start middle school
Reopen school
Need parent support
Model 2 thru grade 8
Lower tuition
Grades 7-9 in Brainerd
Grades 7-12
Grades 6-12

Expand current school
Combined 6-12
Combined 6-12 school
Combined
Begin PreK-elementary
Add middle schools

Comments by All Teachers:

Too high tuition
Too expensive
Start with middle school
Staffed by religious
Raise elem. enrollment
No middle school
Need Junior high (8-9)
Model 2, lower tuition
Middle School 7-9

Middle school 7-9
Lower tuition
K-8
Ideal enrollment
High tuition
Grades 7-12
Grades 6-8 or 5-8
Grades 6-12
Extend current school

Expand old facility
Enrollment: 150-175
Enrollment overstated?
Enrollment?
Elementary to include 7-8
Connected buildings
Better public schools
Add middle school
Add 8th grade

Comments by All Key Leaders:

6-9 to blend with public
Add to current school
Both
Both
Build middle school
Combination school
Combine 6-12
Combine w/ public
Combined
Community can't support
Depends on location
Don't care
Grade school

Grades 7-12
Grades currently available
Have a middle school
Home teach materials
Hr higher rate
Include 6-8
Jointly with Marshall
Less Expensive
Middle school 7-8 or 7-9
Middle school
Middle school
Model 1 and 2
Model1 fully funded

MS first
One building for 7-12
One school 6-12 or 7-12
Out of Duluth, Affordable
Planning
Start middle then HS
Subsidize expense
Teacher/student ratio
Too high tuition
Too high tuition
Tuition a factor
Tuition too high
Uniforms

Figure 1b: Comments on Proposed Programs by Priests, Teachers and Key Leaders

Comments by All Priests:

Religious Study
Religious Education
Religious education
Religion

Other programs noted
Language as elective
Catholic Faith
Co-op plan

Church history
All academics
All above

Comments by All Teachers:

Sports will help
Spanish, life sciences
Service programs
Other programs noted

Math, science
Math
Family
Competitive

Community service
Community service
Anything

Comments by All Key Leaders:

Uniforms?
Sports-no travel
Sports
Service to church
Religion
Religion
Other programs noted
All are necessary

Life skills
Latin
Latin
Health
Family life/values
Critical think.
Community service

Community service
College prep
Catholic faith
Bussing
All the above

Figure 1c: Identification of Potential Issues by Priests and Teachers

Comments by All Priests:

Tuition, location
 Tuition cost
 Tuition and transportation
 Tuition
 Small opportunity for Catholic school in this "retirement" area.
 Salary, training, Catholic curriculum
 Rural area
 Not enough students and transportation
 Not enough students
 Need to create permanent elementary
 Money, athletics and technology
 May offend public school but Catholic schools have unique perspective
 Low student population in area
 loss of revenue to public school
 Location,
 Location
 Location
 Location. Limited in sponsoring sports

Limited number, finance
 Lack of students
 Lack of income. Not enough of young people around
 Lack of financial support
 It would be better to concentrate on Junior High.
 Issues or problems foreseen
 Is it affordable?
 Involves Catholic interest and obligation
 I do not believe that it would be long lived
 How to support such a program?
 Grade school would be significant
 Funding and placement
 Funding
 Finding financial support
 Financial problems
 Finances; Lack of interest
 Finances, trained staff
 Finances, no violence in Catholic schools
 Finances, discipline, curriculum content
 Finances and funding
 Finances

Finances
 Finances
 Finances; competitive salaries
 Experience, population competition
 Enrollment
 Enrollment?
 Education, programs, transportation, financing
 Divided opinions about schooling
 Distance
 Development of identity
 Cost; transportation
 Cost, transportation, technology
 Cost, transportation, competition
 Cost of tuition
 Cost
 Competition, scholarships, income
 Cathedral H.S. unsuccessful
 Can not afford
 Affordability
 A Catholic Middle school would not stay

Comments by All Teachers:

Tuition, sports, salary, facility
 Tuition, not enough students
 Tuition, enrollment
 Tuition cost, transportation, pastors support
 Tuition cost, enrollment, salaries
 Tuition cost
 Tuition cost
 Tuition
 Tuition
 Tuition
 Tuition
 Tuition
 Tuition
 Tuition
 Transportation, location
 Transportation, funding
 Transportation, financing, extracurricular
 Transportation, finances

Transportation, community acceptance
 Transportation
 There will be more students than space
 Teachers, pay
 Teachers are paid low
 Sports
 Sports
 Site, cost
 School programs, bussing
 Scholarships, sports
 Safety
 Quantity, tuition cost
 Qualified teachers, initial support
 Qualified instructors
 Public school might dislike it
 Programs availability
 Pay, programs, tuition

Parents are for it
 None
 None
 None
 Money
 Money
 Many families are looking for this school
 Make sure to run for a long time
 Low income area, competition
 Low enrollment, tuition cost
 Low attendance, lack of money
 Location, stuffing, salaries
 Location, size, commitment
 Location, salaries
 Location, programs, funds
 Location, cost, transportation

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| | |
|---|---|
| Location, competition | Competition, enrollment |
| Learning experiences | Competition similar to |
| It is necessary to include all classes. | Edison |
| Issues or problems foreseen | Competition |
| Funding, location, Catholic teaching | Competition |
| Funding, curriculum, location, sports | Competition |
| Funding bussing | Building too small. |
| Fund public schools | Already in process of building another church |
| Finances, tuition, location, competition | Already have middle |
| Finances, location | Academic standards |
| Finances, activities | |
| Finances | |
| Finances | |
| Finances | |
| Finances | |
| Extracurricular activities, space, buss | |
| Expenses | |
| Enrollment, tuition cost | |
| Enrollment, social justice, treatment, financial supp. | |
| Enrollment | |
| Enrollment | |
| Enrollment | |
| Enrollment | |
| East's overcrowding could be good for this school | |
| Distance, low students enrollment, shrinking population | |
| Distance | |
| Cost, sports | |
| Cost, salary, number of students | |
| Cost, remember Cathedral | |
| Cost, number of students | |
| Cost, location, transportation | |
| Cost, location | |
| Cost, location | |
| Cost, enrollment | |
| Cost of tuition | |
| Cost | |
| Cost | |
| Cost | |
| Cost | |
| Cost | |
| Cost | |
| Cost | |
| Cost | |
| Cost | |
| Cost | |
| Conflict with public schools | |
| Competition, tuition, parish support | |
| Competition, sports, programs, tuition | |

Support of a Catholic Middle and/or High School by Region

Tables 2 through 7 provide data on various stakeholder groups for specific regions within the Diocese of Duluth.

The base of percentages is shown in parentheses and where this is less than approximately 30, considerable caution should be exercised in interpreting the data. Non-responses are never random. If there are less than 10 respondents, percentages are not shown since they are likely to be unreliable estimates of the views of their group. Interpretation of percentages with a small base number of respondents should also include the possibility that respondents are likely to be those who were more concerned with the school issue.

Open-ended responses are provided in Figures 2 through 7.

1. Duluth Region

1. The Duluth Region (see Table 2):

Table 2 provides data from a random sample of parishioners, parents, teachers, key leaders, and priests in the Duluth region. Figures 2a-2c list open-ended comments that these groups provided.

A majority of each group sees a need for a Catholic middle and/or high school (55% of parishioners, 85% of parents of Catholic elementary school children, 85% of teachers, 70% of key leaders, and 75% of priests). Among those who favor a school or have no current opinion, a majority favors the school models presented and only the random parishioner sample indicated a somewhat higher preference for a middle school vs. a high school (66% vs. 59%).

Approximately a quarter indicated some other model as well (but 63% of priests) and these suggestions are listed in the appendix (see Table 2, line 2). Figure 2a, below, provides a summary of comments made about desired school models.

Stakeholders opted for the most cost-effective type of construction (75% to 90%), suggesting that this is not a current issue for them.

Among respondents who indicated a preference for a school or had not reached an opinion, each stakeholder group gave highest support (87% to 94%) to *computer technology skills* as a desired program in any school. Only *science labs* received slightly higher support (93% for key leaders). Least supported programs were *drama*, *work skills training*, *extra curricular activities*, and *sports*, although this varied among stakeholder groups (see Table 2, line 4) and virtually all listed programs received support of a majority of each group. The vision is for a technologically and academically strong program. Figure 2b lists comments and suggestions Duluth area respondents had about school programs.

A majority of each group would support establishing a Catholic middle and/or high school (60% of parishioners, 87% of parents and 77% of key leaders). Teachers in Catholic elementary schools in Duluth estimate that 80% of parishioners in their area would support a school and half of the priests expressed a similar opinion.

Line 7 indicates the percent of respondents who have children living at home and line 8 indicates the percentage of their children who are in each grade level. These data would provide an estimate of the number of children available to a middle and/or high school in the area.

Two thirds of parents checked one of the two responses indicating that their children would be likely to attend a Catholic middle or high school. This was true for 38% of the random sample of parishioners and half of the key leaders in the Duluth area (see Table 2, line 9). Elementary school teachers estimate that 91% of parents would like to send their children to a Catholic middle or high school if one were available and priests estimate 70% would like to do so. Duluth parents, whether they are in the random sample, have children in a Catholic elementary school, or are key leaders, are most willing to have their children travel 5-9 miles to such a school (Table 2, line 11).

A majority of each group (including estimates by teachers and priests) feels they would have considerable difficulty or could not afford the projected \$4,500 to \$5,500 annual tuition. Table 2, line 12 shows these percentages (77% of the random parishioner sample who have children,

71% of parents of Catholic elementary school children, 73% of teachers, 47% of key leaders who have children, and 87% of priests).

Background information on parishioners, parents and key leaders in the Duluth area is provided in Table 2, lines 13-19. The majority is currently married, female (except for key leaders who are more evenly split on gender), is Catholic with Catholic spouses, and have a college education. The samples are generally older, from an average age of 40 for parents of current Catholic elementary school students, 45 years for teachers, to key leaders and priests in their later 50's. All have lived a considerable amount of time in their region (20-22 years for parents and teachers to 30-some years for key leaders and the random sample of parishioners). On the other hand, priests in the Duluth region have had a half to a third as much time in their region (averaging 12 years).

A quarter to a third wrote added comments on the back of their questionnaires and these comments are listed in Figure 2c, below. Comments are generally organized from more positive to those with concerns to the more negative. More general comments are at the end of the list.

Table 2
Responses by Area Stakeholders to Questions about the Need for a Catholic Middle and/or High School, Duluth Region, 1999.

| Items | Member Sample ⁵ | Parents ⁶ | Teachers ⁷ | Key Leaders ⁸ | Priests |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| 1. In your judgment, is there a need for a Catholic middle school and/or a Catholic high school in the Duluth area? | | | | | |
| Yes, we need a Catholic middle school | 9% | 14% | 16% | 16% | 12% |
| Yes, we need a Catholic high school | 10 | 19 | 12 | 12 | 21 |
| Yes, we need both schools | 36 | 52 | 57 | 42 | 42 |
| No current opinion | 23 | 8 | 2 | 11 | 0 |
| No need for either school (skip to #5) | <u>23</u> | <u>8</u> | <u>12</u> | <u>18</u> | <u>25</u> |
| Totals | 100% (207) ⁹ | 100% (359) | 100% (56) | 100% (124) | 100% (24) |
| 2. Which of the following models do you think the Diocese should pursue at this time? | | | | | |
| Model 1: Middle school (grades 6-8) with location in this area, about 200 enrollment, 1/20 teacher student ratio, full academic and religious curriculum extra curricular programs, annual tuition \$4,500 to \$5,500 per person, opening in 1-5 years. | 66% (131) | 58% (320) | 67% (51) | 58% (98) | 53% (19) |
| Model 2: High school (grades 9-12) with location in this area, about 200 enrollment, 1/20 teacher student ratio, full academic and religious curriculum, extra curricular programs annual tuition \$4,500 to \$5,500 per person, opening in 1-5 years. | 59% (131) | 60% (320) | 65% (51) | 57% (98) | 58% (19) |
| Other preferred model: | 20% (132) | 24% (320) | 28% (51) | 28% (98) | 63% (19) |
| 3. Should a Catholic middle school or Catholic high school be: | | | | | |
| New Construction | 7% | 4% | 4% | 10% | 15% |
| A remodeled existing building if available | 13 | 10 | 6 | 13 | 10 |
| New or existing building depending on which is most cost-effective. | 80 | 85 | 90 | 77 | 75 |
| Totals | 100% (140) | 100% (323) | 100% (50) | 100% (95) | 100% (20) |

⁵ This group is a separate random sample from the general parish household list.

⁶ Parents of Catholic elementary school. All were sent the questionnaire. Some parents may also be teachers and/or key leaders.

⁷ Some teachers may also be parents and/or key leaders.

⁸ Some key leaders may also be parents and/or teachers.

⁹ The number in parentheses is the number of respondents upon which percentages are based.

Table 2, Duluth, continued

| Items | Member Sample | Parents | Teachers | Key Leaders | Priests |
|--|---------------|------------|-------------------|-------------|------------|
| 4. What key programs should a Catholic middle school and/or high school have, in addition to a strong Catholic identity? | | | | | |
| Sports | 62% | 75% | 64% | 73% | 52% |
| Computer technology skills | 87% | 92% | 94% | 92% | 90% |
| Science labs | 84% | 84% | 88% | 93% | 71% |
| Music | 73% | 83% | 86% | 84% | 81% |
| Drama | 53% | 59% | 64% | 64% | 57% |
| Arts | 59% | 68% | 81% | 77% | 67% |
| Literature | 66% | 70% | 81% | 76% | 86% |
| World languages | 67% | 77% | 81% | 83% | 62% |
| College prep | 77% | 84% | 83% | 87% | 67% |
| Work skills training | 58% | 55% | 60% | 67% | 38% |
| Extra curricular activities | 54% | 63% | 71% | 70% | 48% |
| Other desired programs (please list) | 18% | 15% | 33% | 25% | 33% |
| Base of each of the percentages | (135) | (329) | (52) | (95) | (21) |
| 5. Would you be willing to support (in prayer and/or financially through your parish) a Catholic middle school or high school if the diocese decided that there was a need for such a school in your area? | | | | | |
| No | 40% | 13% | N/A ¹⁰ | 22% | N/A |
| Yes | 60 | 87 | | 77 | |
| Totals | 100% | 100% | | 100% | |
| | (188) | (342) | | (119) | |
| 6. Estimate of percent of parishioners who would be supportive of a new Catholic middle and/or high school | N/A | N/A | 80% (43) | N/A | 50% (22) |
| 7. Percent who have children living at home. | 54% | 98% | N/A | 43% | N/A |
| | (205) | (361) | | (122) | |

¹⁰ N/A indicates that the question was not asked of this group.

Table 2, Duluth, continued

| Items | Member Sample | Parents | Teachers | Key Leaders | Priests |
|--|---------------|-----------|----------|---------------|----------|
| 8. Percent of children at home who are in each grade level | | | | | |
| 1 st grade | 15% | 16% | | 8% | |
| 2 nd grade | 4 | 13 | | 7 | |
| 3 rd grade | 12 | 10 | | 8 | |
| 4 th grade | 6 | 10 | | 10 | |
| 5 th grade | 4 | 12 | N/A | 8 | N/A |
| 6 th grade | 17 | 8 | | 6 | |
| 7 th grade | 4 | 10 | | 13 | |
| 8 th grade | 10 | 6 | | 10 | |
| 9 th grade | 6 | 5 | | 4 | |
| 10 th grade | 19 | 6 | | 10 | |
| 11 th grade | 0 | 3 | | 7 | |
| 12 th grade | <u>2</u> | <u>2</u> | | <u>olj m7</u> | |
| Over 12 th grade | 100% | 100% | | 100% | |
| Totals | (48) | (677) | | (110) | |
| 9. How likely is it that one or more of your children would attend a Catholic middle school or Catholic high school if one were available? | | | | | |
| Very unlikely to attend | 34% | 12% | | 30% | |
| 2 | 8 | 7 | N/A | 8 | N/A |
| 3 | 20 | 14 | | 12 | |
| 4 | 11 | 25 | | 28 | |
| Very likely to attend | <u>27</u> | <u>42</u> | | <u>22</u> | |
| Totals | 100% | 100% | | 100% | |
| | (111) | (349) | | (60) | |
| 10. Estimate of percentage of parish parents who would like their children to attend a Catholic middle and/or high school. | N/A | N/A | 91% (53) | N/A | 70% (20) |
| 11. How far would you be willing to have your child travel (by car or bus) to attend a Catholic middle school or Catholic high school if one were available? | | | | | |
| Up to 4 miles one way | 31% | 15% | | 13% | |
| 5 to 9 miles one way | 37 | 46 | N/A | 55 | N/A |
| 10 to 19 miles one way | 28 | 28 | | 24 | |
| 20 or more miles one way | <u>5</u> | <u>10</u> | | <u>8</u> | |
| Totals | 100% | 100% | | 100% | |
| | (87) | (340) | | (53) | |

Table 2, Duluth, continued

| Items | Member Sample | Parents | Teachers | Key Leaders | Priests |
|--|---------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| 12. Tuition projections suggest that the yearly cost would be about \$4,500. To \$5,500 per pupil per year. How difficult would it be for your family to afford this level of tuition? | | | | | |
| Could not afford | 49% | 36% | 26% ¹¹ | 20% | 29% ¹² |
| Would have considerable difficulty | 28 | 35 | 47 | 27 | 58 |
| Probably could afford | 19 | 24 | 28 | 29 | 12 |
| Definitely could afford | 4 | 6 | -- | 25 | -- |
| Totals | 100% (106) | 100% (353) | 100% (51) | 100% (56) | 100% (62) |
| 13. Marital status | | | | | |
| Currently married | 77% | 89% | | 81% | |
| Single, never married | 4 | 2 | N/A | 5 | N/A |
| Widow/widower | 12 | 1 | | 8 | |
| Separated or divorced | 6 | 8 | | 5 | |
| Other | 1 | 0 | | 2 | |
| Totals | 100% (206) | 100% (360) | | 100% (129) | |
| 14. Average age of respondent | 51 years | 40 years | 45 years | 56 years | 59 years |
| 15. Respondent's gender | | | | | |
| Male | 31% | 20% | | 54% | |
| Female | 69 | 80 | N/A | 46 | N/A |
| Totals | 100% (201) | 100% (357) | | 100% (126) | |
| 16. Average years in this community | 32 years | 21 years | 22 years | 34 years | 12 years |
| 17. Respondent's religious affiliation (percent Catholic) | 95% (206) | 87% (354) | | 94% (125) | |
| 18. Spouse's religious affiliation (percent Catholic) | 72% (162) | 75% (320) | N/A | 94% (110) | N/A |

¹¹ Teachers' estimate of parishioner household's ability to pay the tuition. Three response categories used.

¹² Priests' estimate of parishioner household's ability to pay the tuition. Three response categories used.

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Table 2, Duluth, continued

| Items | Member Sample | Parents | Teachers | Key Leaders | Priests |
|--|---------------|---------------|----------|---------------|----------|
| 19. Respondent's education | | | | | |
| Grade school or less | 1% | 1% | | 0% | |
| Some high school | 2 | 1 | | 2 | |
| High school graduate | 16 | 7 | N/A | 8 | N/A |
| Some vocational school | 6 | 2 | | 2 | |
| Vocational school graduate | 4 | 6 | | 4 | |
| Some college | 20 | 21 | | 15 | |
| College graduate | 24 | 33 | | 26 | |
| Some post graduate college | 7 | 9 | | 15 | |
| Post graduate or professional degree | <u>21</u> | <u>21</u> | | 28 | |
| Totals | 100% (227) | 100% (363) | | 100% (130) | |
| 20. Made comments on back of questionnaire (shown in the appendix) | 18% (227) | 22% (363) | 26% (57) | 33% (130) | 32% (25) |

Figure 2a – Comments on Selected Models – Duluth Region

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| \$2000 tuition range | High enroll | Too costly |
| \$2200 | High school | Too expensive |
| \$2500 | High tuition | Too high tuition |
| 6-9 | High tuition | Tuition a factor |
| 6-9 and 10-12 | Home teach materials | Tuition assistance |
| 7 | Hr good | Tuition help |
| 7-12 | Hr higher rate | Tuition is high |
| 7-8 | Is demand there? | Tuition too high!! |
| 7-9 | JH 7-9 | Tuition too high! |
| 7-9 | Jointly with Marshall | Tuition too high |
| 7through 12 | K-8 add #2 model | Tuition too high |
| 9-12 | Lakeside area | Tuition too high |
| 9-12 | Larger school (K-12) | Tuition too high |
| Add grades | Less expensive | Tuition=2500-3000 |
| Add high school | Less expensive | Work with Marshall |
| Add to current school | Less expensive | |
| Already have school | Like east | |
| Both | Like Holy Rosary | |
| Brainerd? GR? | Location | |
| Can't afford | Lower tuition | |
| Cheaper tuition | Lower tuition | |
| College prep | Middle school 7-8 or 7-9 | |
| Combination school | Middle school is important | |
| Combine | Model 1 and 2 | |
| Combine 7-12 | Model 1 but \$3000 | |
| Combine 7-12 | Model 1 but in Esko | |
| Combined | Model 2 expect \$2000 | |
| Combined | More affordable | |
| Combined | MS first | |
| Concern with educators | Need price list | |
| Cooperate with Marshall | Need religious ed. | |
| Costs too high | Need to be supportive for both | |
| Costs | Neither | |
| Do middle school first | No children | |
| Does church support state system? | No interest for Duluth area | |
| Downsized | No Model | |
| East has ideal loc. | Not 6th grade limit | |
| Elementary school | One building for 7-12 | |
| Enrollment criteria? | One school 6-12 or 7-12 | |
| Expand current schools | Open school | |
| Expand current schools | Out of Duluth, Affordable | |
| Expand St. Michaels | Planning | |
| Expensive | Population problem | |
| Extracurricular! | Raise salaries | |
| Fair share plan tuition | Scholarships | |
| Fair share tuition | School Uniform | |
| Grades 6-12 | Start middle then HS | |
| Grades 7-12 | Students able to work off tuition | |
| Grades 7-12 | Subsidize expense | |
| Great idea | Teacher/student ratio | |
| Happy with Holy Rosary | There is need for Catholic school | |
| Have a middle school | Through grade 8 | |

Figure 2b – Suggested Programs Not Listed in Questionnaire – Duluth Region

| | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Academic achieve | Family life/values | Mathematics |
| Advanced classes | Foreign exchange | Other programs noted |
| All boys, all grades | God's principles | Physical ed |
| All like public schools | Health | Religion |
| Busing | History | Religion |
| Catholic identity | Latin | Service |
| Community service | Latin | Sex ed. |
| Community service | Latin | Social skill |
| Community program | Learning disabled | Sports |
| Counseling, courses | Life management. | Sports-no travel |
| Critical thinking | Life skills | Teaching skills |
| DARE | Life skills | The basics first |
| Education | Math | Uniforms? |
| Faith | Math | |
| Faithful to Rome | Math, debate | |

Figure 2c – Schools Currently Attended By Respondent's Children – Duluth Region

| | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Holy Rosary - 232 | Morgan Park - 5 | Smls - 3 |
| St Johns - 96 | Congdon - 5 | Lincoln - 3 |
| St Michaels - 92 | Lowell - 6 | Lakeside - 3 |
| Queen of Peace - 65 | Public - 5 | Piedmont - 3 |
| East HS - 62 | Edison - 4 | Two Harbors - 3 |
| St Rose - 55 | Albrook - 3 | Chester Park - 2 |
| St James - 46 | Bayview - 3 | Chs - 2 |
| Marshall - 35 | Moose Lake - 3 | Floodwood - 2 |
| Proctor - 24 | Mont. Es - 1 | CMS - 1 |
| Central - 23 | Olop - 1 | Fond Du Lac - 1 |
| Cloquet - 20 | Parochial - 2 | Eveleth - 1 |
| Woodland - 18 | Phs - 2 | Boarding school - 1 |
| Denfield - 16 | Pichk - 1 | Lester Park - 1 |
| Ordean - 10 | Raleigh - 1 | Minneapolis - 1 |
| St Thomas - 10 | Rockridge - 1 | Lake Superior College - 1 |
| Hermantown - 9 | Sawtooth Elem - 2 | Jaj - 1 |
| Esko - 8 | St Mary - 2 | St Paul - 1 |
| LSC - 2 | Churchill - 1 | |
| McArthur - 2 | Jedlicka - 1 | |
| Home school - 7 | Zion - 1 | |

Figure 2d: General Comments at End of Questionnaire – Duluth

- 1 I would love to see a Catholic middle and high school open in the Duluth area.
- 2 We really need to address Catholic education for our youth through high school. We see this as more important than elementary school education. Plus current system drops them after 6 or 8th grade when they need religious education and support the most.
- 3 I feel there is a great need for alternative schools for students who decide to continue their education in a religious enriched environment. Hope your survey finds this to be true. Good Luck!
- 4 We would encourage the diocese to seriously consider the St. Michaels lakeside school site for a Catholic middle school. The building is definitely large enough, and its layout offers the opportunity to allow the 6-8 grades (middle school) to be housed in that area of the building, which is now rented out as business rental space while the preschool 5th grades would remain in what is now the classroom area for the building. Please make every effort to utilize this wonderful space to its fullest potential. St. Michael's lakeside school is a middle school just waiting to happen. Perhaps utilize this existing site could reduce the projected tuition amount which seems awfully high.
- 5 Catholic schools provide all children with a firm foundation. My husband and I are products of Catholic schools from elementary through college years. We are grateful for those years and hope that high school students in Duluth can also get the opportunity to attend a Catholic school.
- 6 We are praying for this opportunity to be available to us. Thank you for pursuing it!
- 7 I was so disappointed that St. James was unable to get the funds for a middle school (for whatever reason's that were not possible at the time.) I wanted so much for a couple more years in a safe environment for my son to be 7th grader. It would be great to know my 2nd grader could have that. God must be in the center of our children's lives and education - they need Jesus Christ now more than ever - a middle school would truly be a blessing and help continue to mold God's children. Thank you.
- 8 This is a very good idea and is very badly needed.
- 9 I highly recommend this project to be undertaken. It is a shame at a child's most vulnerable intellectual time that these children must be forced into a humanistic secular public school. In spite of the opportunity in our children to at least attend Catholic education experience until 8th grade it is still a battle to fight once they start public education. It is a shame that this diocese cannot provide a high school!
- 10 We feel that a Catholic middle school is greatly needed. Our son attends St. Michaels lakeside as of right now and the religious teachings along with academics is very important to us. Our choices of schools after Jack finishes St. Michaels are either Marshall (can't afford), Holy Rosary, or Ordean. Our first pick would be Holy Rosary but we feel this could be difficult considering kids at Holy Rosary have all been together since kindergarten. XXX may end up having difficulty fitting in entering at 7th grade. If there were to be a Catholic Middle School developed, all kids would be starting together all at the same time making it much easier emotionally for them.
- 11 We have considered moving out of Duluth because there is no Catholic high school or home school them through high school. This age 14-18 is such a critical time in our faith ~ our culture has such diminishing values! Our young people need faith guidance in school to mirror what is happening at home. We as a faith community need to sacrifice for these children. We must make it our #1 priority. This age is the building blocks for our future church. Even though Jesus was exhausted he stopped what he was doing to be with the children. We must do the same. Catholic education has the reputation of excellence ~ This high school must follow in that tradition. We must have return to the basics. College prep would be wise. My family is willing to do anything. (Financial) support, fund-raise, pray, wash floors, paint, cook dinners, or make bars. Our efforts will be limitless - before while and after children leave!

Figure 2d, Duluth, continued

- 12 I have attended Catholic school thru 8th grade. I had 5 children, all attended and graduated from Catholic grade and high schools. I have nine grandchildren - all finished Catholic Grade and High Schools. I now have 12 great grandchildren who I hope and pray will have an opportunity to do the same although they are not in the Duluth area. All are successful families - never used drugs. I am grateful for Catholic education. As I look at education today - there is no better goal in life than a good Catholic education. This is long overdue.
- 13 Need at least one more Catholic elementary on top of the hill.
- 14 Highest priority should be a middle school for the west side of Duluth, as Holy Rosary has to grade 8. St. James doesn't offer this option. Thanks.
- 15 We need a Catholic school here now and sooner than 1-5 years.
- 16 I would be very interested in seeing Queen of Peace school continue through 8th grade and although I love the idea of a Catholic high school, I also believe in having my kids go to school in their community! If we lived in Duluth I would be interested and make every effort to send them to a Catholic high school. In addition, Queen of Peace school has been wonderful for my kids. I can't say enough good things about it.
- 17 I had twelve years of pre -1960 Catholic education from school sisters of Notre Dame and Jesuit priests. I agree with T.S. Elliot who said that a true education is a religious one. That said, and although one's education is never complete, I believe that a complete basic Catholic education necessarily requires a Catholic High School. It is only at the secondary level that the student is capable of grasping by introduction the rich Roman Catholic cultural Patrimony. It is only frequently mentioned that Roman Catholicism is one of the richest culture in Western Civilization. In fact, without an understanding of Jewish and Christian history and humane studies, one cannot have an understanding of Western Civilization in any depth. For example last week the media broadcasts were about a mentally man on death row in Texas. The issue is whether he has sufficient mental competency to be executed. In all of the discussions I listened to, none of the lawyer - participants identified the fundamental reason why the state historically did not execute the insane criminal. The basic reason is not because the criminal cannot understand why he is being punished, as the lawyer- participants stated; rather the insane man cannot confess, repent, and prepare himself to meet his maker. It is unlikely that the Catholic elementary student, without Catholic HS will ever read the great Catholic classics, G.K.Chesterton and Christopher Dawson, for example, much less Aquinas, Gilson, Pieper and Maritain. Nor could he appreciate Flannery O'Connor and other great Catholic authors of fiction and poetry. Nor is it likely that such a student will feel compelled to attend a Catholic College or university. And accordingly, the secularization of many nominal "Catholic" colleges and Universities, such as the St.Scholastica, will be continued. It is wholly misleading to call the College of St. Scholastica in its advertising- "education in the benedictism tradition" is not the equivalent of a Catholic institution of higher learning which recognize the authority of , and submissive to, the magisterium of the church. I predict that the College of St. Scholastica will not accept the authority of the ultimate norms required by the document. And Bishop Schweitz will be forced to withdraw recognition of St. Scholastica as a Catholic College. Accordingly for the foregoing reasons and others, I favor a K-12 Catholic education.
- 18 A middle or high school would be the answer to our prayers.
- 19 There is a strong need for an educational facility that teachers at top levels while maintaining the integrity of our Catholic values.
- 20 I have been interested in Catholic high school since arriving in Duluth and though it odd that one was not made available. Growing up in a community with a strong Catholic faith and educational opportunity from k-college. I often though of relocating there just for the educational advantages of Catholic education. We have had children at Holy Rosary since 1990 and have been extremely happy with the education morals and solid foundation it has provided our children. Home school and church all compliment one another. As a parent of an entering high school student I can only wish she could be continuing her Catholic education. With the current tragedies in our middle and high schools the structure and commitment and faith a Catholic education provides is a must. I would prefer a high school as Holy Rosary does provide junior high classes if funding was a issue in the choice.

Figure 2d1, Duluth, continued

- 21 In reply to the second questionnaire I couldn't respond to all questions, which I regret. Of course a Catholic school and middle school would be ideal, if I were in that category that age group to have that opportunity we would always take advantage of it for our children. I will pray for the success of much an undertaking and contribute what I could towards it.
- 22 I am a strong advocate of Catholic education. I had the good fortune of moving to Duluth in 1959 when my oldest child was 10 she and her brothers and sister had the benefit of Catholic education thru grade school and high school and six of the seven have college degrees. In my opinion many of the problems begin in the home for which the school is not responsible. However, the NEA is incapable of providing a learning environment in the schools they monopolize.
- 23 Again I cannot stress how strongly I believe there is a need for a Catholic high school in our area. Currently when my children finish grade six, They have no choice but public school. This is a huge worry for us. I would be willing to be involved in committees planning or other areas that may be of use in furthering this idea. Again I would teach to help start a school.
- 24 I did not fill out the survey the 1st time because we live 110 miles from the town of Duluth and therefore thought our response would not have any bearing on your survey. I am for Catholic Schools and am saddened that I live in an area where we do not have school choices. My husband and I are both Catholic school graduates and feel we both benefited from the experience. I think Duluth would benefit from a Catholic middle & high School.
PEACE....
- 25 I definitely would support a Catholic high School! It's hard to send four children to a Catholic school (K-8) and then have to turn them over to public schools for high school. I work in a public high school. I see it everyday. What a change! It's disheartening! Also I can't believe a city this size can't support a Catholic High School! I also feel you would pull kids from Marshall because you would be offering parents another choice.
- 26 With only 13 Catholic schools in the diocese I think everything possible should be done to keep them all open and to open a middle and high school, why don't we use good Shepard instead of Edison?
- 27 I would be very happy to see a Catholic middle and high school in our city. As a 1969 graduate of Duluth Cathedral high I well remember the quality of education I received. During my time we were mainly taught Sisters and Priests. These instructors were extremely well educated and dedicated to their teaching professions. As experience teaches us, the financial difficulties associated with this sort of endeavor are worry some. I would like to begin with the middle school because I have first hand seem the success at Holy Rosary school and believe there is a fair possibility of this if it is taken one step at a time. Frankly, most Catholics are extremely fragile and may balk at \$4500 yr tuition. IF we can overcome the tuition problem I believe a Catholic middle and high school would be a tremendous gift to our community.
- 28 Have they considered starting a Catholic high school and adding a grade each year until all levels (9-12) are in place? This approach would make the wait for such an opportunity to exist here in Duluth less lengthy. I have a concern about being able to attract education of exceptional quality. Salaries for faculty must be on a competitive level with Duluth Public schools in order to retain and or attract top-notch teachers. To me this is a key issue, and I believe a current one in the upper grades at Holy Rosary. A Catholic education is great, but academically it must be terrific too! Otherwise Duluth East is going to win out at least in our choices.
- 29 I am sure it would be a great success it would be great to have a school. I was pretty naive about the cost. Never thought it would be close to Marshall's tuition but with a tight labor market and increased cost of benefit packages. At this house it would have to prove to be head and shoulders above public education in order to get my husband to willingly pitch in financially. Since he graduated from the East he doesn't think there is a need for a Catholic secondary school. If you are an average working family the tuition doesn't leave room for much else.
- 30 I am hoping for a non public school option for my son, especially for grades 6-8 in addition to Marshall. He has some special learning needs and neurological issues and I am not sure he would fit in at Marshall. I love St. James and would like a similar middle school option for my son (hopefully in West Duluth?)

Figure 2d, Duluth, continued

- 31 I would love to see a Catholic school 6-12 in Duluth. Is it possible to ride on Marshall? Offer a Catholic religious curriculum? I wish There was a way to have a large percentage of our Catholic support our Catholic schools, not just the parents with children who went a Catholic school this is our challenge. A second challenge to meet is that There are some very good public schools in Duluth. More competition, God bless in your good work.
- 32 We would be strong supporters and send our 4 children to both middle/high school, however they must have a strong academic bent - with the high school emphasizing college preparatory classes.
- 33 Concern # 1 - some Duluth Catholic elementary schools are not in great financial shape. These are the feeders for a Catholic middle/high school. Their financial health needs to be ensured before the investment in the middle/high school is worthwhile. Concern # 2 - Middle School Tuition. Holy Rosary currently has a very basic, very adequate 7/8-grade program for under \$2000. Could this serve as a model for a middle school program that in an expanded form would cost around \$3000? Concern # 3 - A Catholic high school would need to be first rate to compete with Marshall. Our family did not choose Marshall for the older boys because it lacks the parochial dimension. We were also concerned about "elitism." Suggestion - We have considered St. Lawrence Seminary in Wisconsin. Residential tuition is lower than Marshall's day school cost, mostly because of SLS endowment income. What's the potential for significant endowment from Cathedral high grads?
- 34 If the diocese were to pursue this level of education, I would be supportive if I were confident that the Catholic identity was upheld and encouraged in all its fullness. I feel that most Catholic schools in our area are not doing all they can to teach the faith (along with secular education) the secular education is very good, however, the religious training is often poor. For those parents (like myself) who desire an orthodox Catholic environment, we are often met with difficulties and resentment. This is why I consider home schooling.
- 35 A Catholic high school would be nice. But Cathedral became Marshall, so I question whether we can afford and maintain a truly Catholic high school or middle school. We can't even support parish elementary schools. Perhaps the diocese should develop "stronger" Sunday school program with better professionally trained, maybe paid, teachers taught in Catholic doctrine, church history, and organization and character formation based on the commandments and non-relative right word wrong? It may take a 4 or 6 hour Saturday instruction day, but as my parents supported both the public and my Catholic elementary school, today's parents may have to decide between hockey, soccer etc, and their child's soul. Public schools should not attempt to teach more values and each Catholic, protestant, Muslim, must accept responsibility to teach their own -- and every American new and old, is responsible for teaching tolerance and respect - and equality rights.
- 36 If there were a way to make these facilities - the middle school and high school a product of all the Catholic parishes in the area, so that each family's parish was able to help with tuition costs for example - currently as a member of St. John's parish we receive a subsidy from the parish on tuition for our children to attend St. John's school. If by doing it that way we could lower the cost of tuition it would hopefully be more affordable for most of us. At the current projected rate - we could not afford it and would not be able to have or children attend.
- 37 Perhaps money should be diverted from other areas! I think the diocese of Duluth has failed its young people in regards to providing Roman Catholic education. I attended DCHS. I can still remember a nun telling us "its only a sin if you think it's a sin!" Parents are responsible for instilling basic values in their children but a positive role model such as a nun, brother, or priest. I think Catholic education should be a priority in our diocese.
- 38 The young minds of middle school age are formed by now. So I would say a middle school would keep them on the right path. Our young people need religion. They have to keep Christ in their lines and have a faith ever lasting. I'm afraid the tuition will be hard to pay, when public schools are already there and no tuition.

Figure 2d, Duluth, continued

- 39 I have been involved before in trying to get a Catholic high school in Duluth. I had hoped all three of my children would graduate from a Catholic High School. Now, only my youngest has a chance. All three of my children go or have gone to Catholic grade school. I did not send them to 7-8 at Holy Rosary because it required a school change (from St. John's) and because there was no Catholic High School to continue their education. However I am only interested in a Catholic school if the Catholic part is the most important part of the school. The school must not try to water down the Catholic religion to try to attract non-Catholics. I already see less veneration of the Blessed Virgin in our grade school in order to attract evangelics who believe we are worshiping Mary. They pay full tuition as opposed to the Catholic students who pay only part; therefore we value their attendance more. I would like daily Mass attendance and uniforms required. Also, Latin offered as part of the curriculum. We have three children to educate through college and could not afford Marshall - type tuition. We've already paid for 17 years of Catholic Schools. The church must and should help out with tuition. The price mentioned is what Marshall students pay with no reduction from a church. The Catholic church should look at a Catholic high school as a way of ensuring top quality Catholic adults to help lead the church in the next century. All three of my children are strong Catholics with a good grasp of their faith. Religion is a part of their lives, not something they do on Sundays. Their understanding of some parts of their faith exceeds mine - a CCD educated Catholic. We cannot underestimate the power of a good Catholic education.
- 40 Though our own six children were schooled in our neighborhood, public elementary 1-6 grades and they were bussed to Proctor Jr and Sr high school, eleven miles from our home, we did support the building of the Catholic school 9-12 in Duluth, financially we gave to the school fund as well as soliciting other parishioners of St. Raphael to pledge for the Cathedral high school. The diocese later made the decision to close the school because there were no religious nuns and priests to staff it. It was not a paying proposition to hire lay teachers to staff and run the school. Closing schools at parishes throughout the diocese also diminished the number of students seeking parochial high school enrollment, etc. The plan was too costly to maintain so it was given away to a group promoting its use as a private secular school, Marshall. We felt our efforts and sacrifice for that Catholic high school were in vain, we felt dumped. We will probably support a new Catholic high school. What is the plan? Why not buy Marshall back and change the name to Duluth Cathedral high school.
- 41 I would hope that some work-study and volunteer options would also be available so that as a family we could help defray some of the costs, in addition to scholarships, etc. I circled all the programs in question #4 because I think they are all important parts of a well-rounded education, but in the beginning I think it would be most important to focus on the basics. Most importantly, I will only send my children to a middle school or high school where the fullness of our faith is expressed. I will not send them if they would be receiving a watered down version of our faith.
- 42 \$4-5000 is too much for 6-8th (grade) tuition. I can see how it would be necessary for high school tuition. After talking to many Cathedral grads, I wonder if a Catholic high school could make a go in Duluth. Why was it sold to Marshall in the 80's? Has anything changed since then? Where would the revenue come from to begin a new school? Could Duluth support both a Catholic high school plus Marshall reality? I went to Catholic high school and had a great experience, I always wished my children could also attend a Catholic high school, but I am very apprehensive if Duluth has the Catholic population to support this. Otherwise Cathedral wouldn't have folded. I am curious to what happened with that, it is a shame that it closed.
- 43 I am all for sports program in schools but they seem to take 1/4 of the schools budget in supporting them. How about the possibility of a cooperative agreement between private and public schools, biased on students geographic location, to combine the extramural sports programs. I cannot see a Catholic school being able to monetarily support these types of sports programs without tuition being increased to the point of being cost prohibitive to many families. Intramural sports events and activities could be supported by a private school. Thank you for the questionnaire. I would enjoy being part of this as a future project. If I can help please contact me.

Figure 2d, Duluth, continued

- 44 I was surprised several weeks ago when my daughter Mrs. X said she thought we needed a Catholic HS in Duluth. XXX says times have changed, she knows quite a few people who would like to send their children to Marshall HS but they cannot afford to do so. XXX thought if we could have a Catholic HS with a \$2000 to \$2500/year tuition many would be going there. Your letter of 8-17-99 proposed tuition of \$4,500 to \$5000 so those people continue to find tuition too much. If every current grade school 6th grade student in a Catholic school attended a diocesan middle school would enrollment projection be achieved? I believe it is unlikely that a private Catholic HS would be successful for several reasons as follows: 1. Marshall HS is here and a strong alternative. 2. I have seen a Catholic HS in Duluth before and siege to exist since I moved here 33 years ago. 3. The expense would be astronomical. 4. Most high school students enjoy extracurricular activities. I cannot imagine how all of those could be organized by a private Catholic HS. 5. I am wary of how a strong education teaching staff could be placed while the school is opening with skepticism and constant concern about financial needs and for that matter survival. I am firmly in favor of Catholic Educational facilities and hardly endorse our parochial grade schools K thru 8th grades but to establish a new Catholic High School seems like a task with minimal probability of success. I say this even though I certainly would be pleased to see a successful Catholic High School
- 45 I strongly recommend using and upgrading existing buildings, much tighter cost and schedule control than grass roots construction, also cheaper project overall and a much better chance to open within the next 2-3 years. And I want to emphasize again that burden for establishing a new Catholic high school must be spread across the entire diocese, for ongoing sustained funding, not just a one time infusion of seed money or a capital campaign. Establishing such schools is the mission for every Catholic. THE benefits of such schools go for beyond the students. I think the diocese should be prepared to cover a minimum of 50% of the per student cost and parents cover a max of 50% and with that wide spread support and commitment a new high school will be a certain success.
- 46 I feel that a middle school would be most beneficial for our children. Those years of growing up can be very difficult, besides their bodies changing physically and emotionally, there are so many peer pressures of this age groups. I would feel much more comfortable sending my children to a wholesome environment that the Catholic school provides than to the public middle school.
- 47 We would consider moving back to the metro area if no strongly academic Catholic high school is available by 2009.
- 48 I think it would be wonderful to have a Catholic high school in Duluth. I am concerned about the cost factor, and I am frustrated because if a Catholic education is as important as we all know it is, why did the diocese give up Cathedral high school.
- 49 Should have scholarships right away otherwise school will be at 4500 to 5000, lets start the enrollment now, be sure one official bishop life insurance policy is directed to the future school, buy now build in years.
- 50 The idea of a Catholic HS + MS is good, but I don't think the Catholic Community in the Duluth area would be able to support it.
- 51 We are a one-income family and we have another child coming in December. We would like to have a Catholic Middle School and High School to send our children to, but it would be difficult to afford. Perhaps volunteer work and fund raising would help to pay tuition.
- 52 For Duluthians, Holy Rosary provides a great Catholic middle school education at this time. A Catholic high school is much needed for Duluth. Although financial support of a Catholic high school would be difficult and questionable, every effort should be made to return a Catholic high school to the city of Duluth.
- 53 I have a one-year-old daughter we are a few years away from a middle or high school, we are undecided on whether they would attend a Catholic or public school. Costs would play a large role in the decision as well as location and class size.

Figure 2d, Duluth, continued

- 54 Would you like to find a way for tuition to be lowered, a Catholic school in E.G.F., MN charges \$1600 that seems very affordable.
- 55 It's time for the Diocese to financially support Catholic education in a substantial way! If you are going to charge \$5000 the school will fail or at the very least be a school for the wealthy.
- 56 Cost prohibitive for middle class family of 6; particularly, in light of college tuition cost only must save/invest towards. -Elitist concept - wealthy and affluent benefit most. Elementary Catholic schools boast of high test scores but we all know of the direct correlation between income level of families and test scores - church should recruit "poor income" children and minorities.
- 57 Our diocese has several elementary schools that struggle to succeed. Our bishop needs to strengthen what we have before putting us further in debt. We had a Catholic high school and leased the buildings for nothing and sold them for next to nothing. If we need a Catholic High School to badly, why didn't we use Marshall to fit these needs? I believe most average families cannot afford that amount of tuition before college. A school in Duluth would not benefit the entire diocese. Do not ask the rest of the diocese to support such a ridiculous idea. The Catholic church and the Bishop serve one another emotionally, physically, and spiritually. Spending does not meet any of these needs. Our bishop lives better than half the diocese - shame on him for wanting to spend diocese money on a high school.
- 58 Tuition of \$4500-5000 may be out of reach for a large number. Donations thru parishes and setting up scholarships etc should be well organized.
- 59 It needs to be a bit more affordable with the help of Parishes.
- 60 I object to the fact that the diocese continues to punish large families. We want to send our children to Catholic schools too. With tuition increasing (Holy Rosary \$1500) it is a real struggle for these families to continue to afford the tuition. Can't the churches give a little more to our schools? They are so important to us.
- 61 Tuition of 4500 to 5500 seems very high. Other Catholic schools, such as Grand Forks are much more affordable. IF we want to encourage families to use Catholic schools, they must be affordable for the majority of the population, not just the upper and upper middle class.
- 62 Our family is blended through divorce, remarriage. We have worked hard to afford to send all four children to St. Michaels and Holy Rosary. While we have an income that would suggest we should be able to afford 4500 to 5000 per child per year, the sad fact is there are too many fingers in our financial pie. We could not afford the 16,000 to 20,000 per year to send them. In fact, the 15000 it cost for four total has been much sacrifice. We support all efforts to bring a Catholic high school to the area. Unfortunately we will not be able to benefit.
- 63 We have a band coming up in Pine City. All our resources will be needed here. We as a parish are assessed too much as it is for the Duluth area. Our UCA needs to be modified to a realistic amount.
- 64 We could probably afford a fraction of the cost 3000 per year per child.
- 65 When I went to Catholic grade school, our parents did not pay tuition. THE priest was in full support of the school and the parish supported the school financially plus we had a fantastic hot lunch program. If there were more support from all parishioners, tuition would not need to be so high. 4,500 to 5,500 is just too much for most families including ours.
- 66 We can barely afford to keep our kids in St. Rose we help when we can but to continue to high levels in parochial schools we would need a bus unless they could have something available from 7:30 to about 5:00. We are moving to Rice Lake township next year unless our financial situation improves it would be an extreme hardship for us to even afford \$55 a year tuition.
- 67 I've got all can do to keep up with church remodeling, UCA and all the rest. It is getting to be too much.

Figure 2d, Duluth, continued

- 68 I believe that is an exorbitant amount of money for a private school in Duluth. If you have more than 1 child, most people can't afford that in our community, then we have college to look forward to also our child would not attend at the cost.
- 69 We couldn't afford a High School.
- 70 We would have to ensure that the school has comparable academic standards to Marshall or Duluth East.
- 71 Even if you worked with other non-Catholic churches to create a Christian based middle school and high school you may not get more students to enroll.
- 72 There are so few families that provide the kind of ethics training children need in their lives and so few schools that stretch children's minds. We need exceptional teachers. Many are but unfortunately many are mediocre. And the parents are often disinterested bystanders.
- 73 New construction would take such a school well in to 21st century, it would have long-term advantages considering the shape of the other educational options in the community. Marshall appears to be an OK option but doesn't have some of the same behavioral expectations that we have experienced at Holy Rosary. I don't know the history of why Cathedral ceased to exist but it's good that you are looking at the situation again. It is time for all of us to "step out of the box" when we look at educational options for our kids as we move in to the 21st century.
- 74 My father was on the school board at Marquette 30+ years ago when they fought to keep the 7th and 8th grades when I would have been going into the seventh grade. At that time their request was denied, and that was when classes were huge - 30 or more students. Even in a combined school between Virginia and Hibbing, I don't think the numbers would be there. I project financial disaster.
- 75 I believe that with such a strong competitor already established (Duluth Marshall) it would be very difficult to create a Catholic high school. A school of 200 students total would lack the breadth of students and programs that is required, in my opinion, to provide a superior educational experience. Middle school tuition of \$4500-5500 very difficult for those of us with several kids and college of the horizon.
- 76 I believe the cost of providing good quality teachers at reasonable pay levels and maintaining a private high school over the long term will be a significant difficulty to deal with. Without financial help towards tuition, only the families with higher incomes will be able to utilize such a school resulting in an unintended bias towards lower income families.
- 77 The Diocese couldn't make a go of it some years ago. What is different now? I know Catholic parents who sent their children to the old Catholic High School in Duluth and they were very disappointed in the religious education they received. They were more than disappointed they were distressed.
- 78 The public school system should be able to provide a quality education with our tax dollars. The elementary level of Catholic education provides a solid base for our children to cope with the pressures of Middle & High school. (As evidenced by our 2 oldest children who went through St. James then on to public school). The cost of Marshall High School Projected to be \$5-6000 dollars is not realistic for a family of 5 with both parents already working to make ends meet.
- 79 Duluth has had all the Catholic schools but let them go. People still talk of the pledge to Cathedral and it failed. I don't think this town would support the schools.
- 80 Because both my wife and I are 80 years of age and living alone on social security, we would not have a need for either school and would not be able to support if built.

Figure 2d, Duluth, continued

- 81 I think religion classes are very important at all levels and in today's world with weakened family structure, secularism and the anti-religious influence of the mass media, developing ideals and conscience based on faith and reason is more important than ever. For various reasons, not everyone could attend Marshall before the diocese had to sell the property. Probably religion classes could be offered there as well as in the parishes. I believe those who can afford tuition are already at Marshall. Those who can't are in public schools and need support from their parishes, without the added burden of supporting another school.
- 82 We are pleased with St. Johns through 6th grade and then continue with Marshall for 7th through 12th grade. I don't think it would be easy to compete with Marshall unless you could beat their tuition.
- 83 Our Catholic elementary schools are not currently getting the support they need to be competitive. We need to take care of what we have before taking on something this ambitious. If our Catholic community has not shown the will to support these schools, how can we assume that it will support an undertaking that is this capital intensive? The cost per student in independent high schools is 7-10000. If a Catholic school charges \$4500 tuition this means that other sources must fill in a 3-5000 "gap" for each student. Is the diocese and community really prepared to do this? We aren't currently taking care of what we have and the commitment required to do that is much more.
- 84 I think Catholic school would discourage diversity and encourage elitism.
- 85 The diocese has a very poor record of operating Catholic high school in Duluth. I do not see the enrollment at the Catholic elementary schools growing at any rate that could justify opening a Catholic middle or high school. As a member of parish that operates a school, we are having trouble supporting our own school. Even Edison has not had enough kids to open a high school. Students want the extracurricular activities and variety of classes that are offered in the current middle and high schools. I doubt very much at the enrollment at middle and high school would be large enough to be able to offer these. Duluth is declining population does not justify opening another high school or middle school. The diocese should put its efforts into improving the current Catholic elementary schools and into increasing their enrollment.
- 86 I firmly believe in early years of strong religious educational guidance, that sets the tone for young adults. I believe my children have received both by attending St. Michaels school now they need to carry these into their lives and community through public education. Family and church at this point should bear the responsibility of religious upbringing. I like that my children are well prepared academically and morally through family and early years of education through Catholic schools. After this, cost and class socially and ability to afford private education is not helpful to my family and my children socially. I would not send my children to higher levels of Catholic schools based on this option.
- 87 Why consider a new high school after we sold Marshall properties for peanuts? Would a new school compete with Marshall, which is doing a good job? I think the four remaining Catholic schools are substandard physically; instead why not use the Catholic teachers at those schools as CCD instructors? Currently the church is spending too much on reading, writing, and arithmetic for a limited number of its children. Also I would be happy if the church would produce a 1st class television show. It's been a long dry spell since Bishop Sheen. How about spending a lot more on the Catholic press? At 26% of America's population, Catholics have to be a gigantic sleeping giant!
- 88 As a graduate of Duluth Cathedral I had a very positive Catholic high school experience. I would be very cautious in proceeding ahead though with a Catholic high school as I also saw enrollment decline drastically as the same school became financially unstable until its demise. Currently we have an excellent private high school in Duluth, which offers some religious education. I am very comfortable exposing my future high school to different faiths and most likely would send them to an all faith school. On another note, as a past employee of Marshall I was there when Catholic diocese sold the building to Marshall school. I have great concerns with the thinking that the Catholic diocese could open another school when financially the first school failed and our vision was not strong enough to see we may open another school in the future and, not hold on to the building.

Figure 2d, Duluth, continued

- 89 I hope that you decide not to pursue this plan. Hibbing and other range communities are having a terrible time with declining enrollment and loss of state dollars. If you took 100 students out of the junior high and high school to put into a private Catholic school it would be devastating for our public schools. We cannot afford to lose any more students. If you want to help our junior high and high school students with their faith you should expand on CYA and offer more youth activities that would bring in students with no religious training and welcome kids from other faiths. The cost of CYA is too high and scared away the Catholics that can't afford to pay 60 dollars - that is a lot of money for many struggling families.
- 90 I would very much like to see a Catholic high school. Due to the cost per child per year our family would not be able to afford this. That I take 4500 to 5000 per year as the cost of tuition alone. Not including any extra outside activities, music, soccer, baseball etc. that the child may want. All these things tend to add up quickly. My daughter is unable to attend 7th grade this year due to cost. I feel unless you are higher than middle class its difficult to make ends meet. Education is very important and I hope that is the six years my child has attended Catholic school I have helped instill some lasting values and morals in her Catholic upbringing and her every day life.
- 91 I feel this doesn't really apply to me. 50 miles one way to school is too much. The fee is outrageous for a family to afford. I don't really want my church to be financially responsible because I don't think any kids would attend. Our united Catholic appeal is already to high for our small church.
- 92 To make a middle or high school viable, the current Catholic grade schools need to be as viable as possible. Is the Bishop and pastors telling parish families in a very direct way that sending their children to the parish Catholic school is expected? Is Holy Rosary willing to cooperate with a joint middle school? If they are not, it won't work. Nor will it work if Holy Rosary insists on being the location for a joint middle school. In my opinion, only a separate, "independent" middle school has any chance of survival - in HR would need to give up their 6-8th grades in favor of a community wide middle school.
- 93 I was a freshman when the new Duluth Cathedral high school opened. It is too bad that the diocese could not keep the school open. I believe we need a Catholic school, however I don't believe it is fair to the proper to build another school when we went through this in the past. If anything, purchase Marshall at an adequate price and go from there.
- 94 I feel that it would be hard for the diocese to financially sustain a Catholic high school. Our Catholic grade school is operating on a shoestring. Financially speaking, and I find it unreasonable to think that you will be able to get the support you will need to operate a middle and high school. There are other Christian schools in the area that parents could send their children if they wanted to avoid the public school system. I just want to say that my three children graduated from St. Rose received a very fine education and it was worth the sacrifice to have them attend that school.
- 95 Consolidate parish schools into a network with a centralized management system. Require all parishes to subsidize schools, not just parishes with schools. Don't build another private high school; cooperate with Marshall.
- 96 I am a great advocate of Catholic education. I have had 15 years of Catholic education my junior year of college was at a secular university. I, as well as my husband and eight children graduated from Catholic college as universities. The children all attended Catholic "grammar" school when we lived in Grand Rapids and the ten years we lived in Minneapolis area, returning here to Grand Rapids. Instead of spending money for a Catholic middle or high school, I believe money should be on an excellent CCD program, which reaches the majority of Catholic children. I do not believe many Catholic children would attend a Catholic middle or high school. Our community is not large enough to support such building projects.
- 97 With our youngest we may not require financial assistance, but would for the other two. I am starting such a program it would be helpful to find individuals or corporations willing to partially sponsor other students once they are in a position. Marshall offers scholarships to 25% of their students.

Figure 2d, Duluth, continued

- 98 There are now available several options to all Duluth residents for their children's education. We do not need another "Marshall". The diocese should devote its resources to enhancing its Jewish religious education programs for children rather than developing more schools. Without sufficient nuns and priests to fully staff a school the costs are taking parish funds that could be used to support other religious goals of the diocese of Duluth.
- 99 Many parents I have talked to wish there was a Catholic middle and high school.
- 100 I value the education my daughter has gotten at Catholic elementary schools. We have been given an acceptance and extended family at St. Rose. When my oldest child began middle school she wanted to be part of the larger school community of Proctor. I don't think we would opt for a Catholic middle school or high school for that reason. My youngest child also looks forward to joining the public school system at junior high.
- 101 Seems religion always went a Catholic high school and then watch. Please don't saddle us with this debt just to satisfy your agenda of "children" the tuition will not cover the cost of education why not use a figure that is realistic.
- 102 Our children attend Holy Rosary, which goes through grade 8. That is why I do not feel the need for a middle school. I like the present arrangement.
- 103 I am a product of the Catholic school system and a graduate of a Catholic university. In my opinion the public school system in its present environment does not provide adequate discipline for the students therefore the Catholic high school is a viable alternative for those who can afford it.
- 104 Starting with a middle school would make the transition from grade school to a Catholic high school better in many ways. It would help in keeping enrollment from grade school through high school. There may also be a pool of teachers who have been teaching at grade schools who may pursue teaching in a middle school situation. The starting costs comparatively seem less to me if current 5,6,7,8th grade texts and curriculum from St. Mike's and St. John's and Holy Rosary were used for "start up". Current facilities would be more usable for middle school than a high school. Many families would opt for Marshall or the public schools for high schools presently because they have the sport facilities, auditoriums, etc. geared toward the high school student. Personally I feel Holy Rosary would be a good facility for a middle school because of location mostly. It would give the diocese an opportunity to develop a faculty and an image and a reputation before the gigantic undertaking of a high school. I am definitely for both schools. I hope pray that plans are successful whatever decision is made. We are planning a Catholic education for our child as far up as the diocese make available to us.
- 105 We strongly support exploring the idea of a Catholic middle school and high school. The challenges of establishing such schools are great but perhaps not insurmountable. If the diocese moves forward, we'll do our best to support the effort. Thank you for considering this possibility.
- 106 I went to Catholic school as a child. Would never send my children to a Catholic school!!!!
- 107 A Catholic high school should be a high priority for our region. In my travels I have found smaller cities with two or more Catholic HS to attend. Unfortunately with the way society sees priorities, for our youths, our high schools are very frightening. Drugs, sex, violence seem to have taken over reading, writing, and arithmetic. Thank you.
- 108 Support both middle school and high school if done over long term. Suggest that if both all undertaken that they have separate buildings on same campus with joint use of large facilities.
- 109 The diocese had a Catholic high school the Marshall school is more than adequately filling the need for a college prep middle and high school. The idea of now building or starting another Catholic high school is ridiculous!

Figure 2d, Duluth, continued

- 110 I feel that asking us to support a school that we cannot afford is totally uncalled for. Catholic members should receive a substantial tuition break (50%) if they are asked to support such a school. I remember when we had to give to the new Cathedral high school, my parents contributed to it, but they could not afford to send me there when I was in high school. They did however, subsidize a lot of well to do people's children. Even though my wife and I make an acceptable living, 4000 a year is way too high for one child much less two.
- 111 If you want to keep America's children to be brought up in the Catholic atmosphere the best thing to do would be keep the small churches open so the adults have a place they can call their church in which their children would be able to attend on a weekly basis, not just for weddings and funerals. Further more, only the rich would be able to get any good out of a school like this because we certainly could not afford to pay for our children education. In closing we wouldn't be able to afford private tuition but we could have afforded to maintain our parish as well as pay the weekly fees for a priest but our bishop closed our church anyway!
- 112 There is currently no need for a Middle School when Holy Rosary offers 7th 8th grade classes. This is done for our Catholic families at a fraction of the proposed cost of the new Middle School.
- 113 Explain to parishioners why you sold Cathedral to Marshall! Also, we've been doing fine without a Catholic school. So, NO THANK YOU!!!!!!!
- 114 Let us first tend to present business and keep our ducks in a row. Pay good teachers a good wage so we don't have any second rate educators in our current system.
- 115 I think all Catholics today need all the help we can give. We are losing our???? and pride in our faith.
- 116 I hope the diocese is serious about this survey. Since my daughter has started school I have completed at least three surveys through Queen of Peace school about forming a middle and high school.
- 117 We need a good religious background in our lives. Even the children in Catholic schools today are not getting what we learned when the nuns taught us. There still is better discipline than the public schools. They should learn all the daily prayers by the time they leave the sixth grade. If you don't know how to ask God for help how can we expect them to find the right direction in their lives?
- 118 The bishop doesn't keep up on the being of the body of the faithful in the small outlands of the state like Grand Marais. We have lost most of our young to the other churches in town, along with the adults in the past three years alone. I pray each day the holy spirit will help bring them back soon!
- 119 There is a need for Catholic education, but not only for children, how do you reach the parents who send their children in to Catholic school and do not attend Sunday mass with children. The children learn from parents' example and lack of example.
- 120 If it is determined that there is a need for a Catholic middle and high school and a currently existing building cannot be remodeled to meet the schools needs, a new building should be built with quality standards, materials and workmanship, so that it will be able to last for 100 years. Care should also be taken that it is an attractive building with landscaping that the students and their families would be proud of.
- 121 Currently, I am looking at the Marshall school for grades 7+. To compete with Marshall, a new school would have to focus on recruiting top-notch teachers and maintaining high educational standards with a focus on college prep.
- 122 This survey I hope its not a ploy to see if you can further increase the UCA assessments, by finding out that some families may be able to afford a Catholic school for their children, there by the diocese setting assessments higher.
- 123 I attended Holy Rosary and four of my 6 children heartily approve of administration and teaching of Holy Rosary.
- 124 Our Catholic school must have a very strong Catholic identity with Catholic staff and faculty.

Figure 2d, Duluth, continued

- 125 I went to Cathedral High School and graduated in 19xx. I believe we had a good education, but I attribute my education to the industrial education programs we were able to attend at Washington Jr. High school. I ended up being a machine tool instructor in (a) Technical School in Superior Wisconsin. I retired in 19xx with 28yrs of teaching. It was a wonderful experience for me. The knowledge of Math and Science along with a machine shop class at Washington Jr. high School helped me to form my future vocation. The knowledge I received from a 4 gr. degree in Ind. Ed. at UMD helped me to obtain my leading job at (the school). If you have any further questions you can contact me at xxx.
- 126 Why not a Catholic track at Marshall? A middle & high school with tuition prices at 4,500-5000 would mean schools would be for wealthier students. Already a problem at Holy Rosary with its tuition that is much lower. No problem should jeopardize what is in place & working.
- 127 With all due respect, Bishop, if Catholic education and/or moral values and foundations are the mission, then may I suggest; expanding, and strengthening our K-8 programs would be far more effective in our kid's development. They absorb it, not fight it.
- 128 We had a Catholic high school and grade schools. Why did the Diocese lose the High school??????????? POOR MANAGEMENT?????????!!!!
- 129 It is unlikely any family would take advantage of such a school. For many people, however, it might be helpful to have another choice in Duluth. Diversity does improve overall quality.
- 130 Instead of investing so much money into a new high school, why not try to offer religious classes through Marshall?
- 131 Please keep in mind that Catholic families are open to God's will, meaning a lot of families have more than 2 children.
- 132 I would like to see more support from the Diocese to supplement teacher salaries in our existing Catholic Schools.
- 133 My son's experience at SMLS was poor at best. He did enjoy other students but found the teacher nonflexible. As a parent, I found the K teacher nonflexible to individual's needs, in areas of reading & math. I also found that the Script program was great, until my son brought home other fundraising programs that targeted children I was unable to afford these entries. I also found the K teacher judgmental of my parenting skills. I felt that full day K was a great opportunity for my son to increase his social skills. I feel that SMLS should have put their best foot forward in K to promote increase in student enrollment.

2 Hibbing/Virginia Region

2. The Hibbing/Virginia Region (see Table 3)

Table 3 provides data for four categories of respondents: the random sample of Hibbing/Virginia region parishioners, all parents of children currently in Catholic elementary schools, all teachers of from Catholic schools, and all key leaders in the region who were listed by the Diocese. It should be noted that a few teachers are also included in the parent column and a few teachers and parents are also key-leaders. Figures 3a-3c list comments to selected questions made by Hibbing/Virginia area respondents.

A third of teachers and approximately a quarter of the other three groups favored a Catholic middle school. Virtually no one saw a need for only a high school. On the other hand, nearly all of the teachers (90%) saw a need for one or both types of school, followed by 71% of parents, 62% of key leaders, and 46% of the general parishioners. About a quarter of three groups (excluding the teachers) saw no need for either type of school. Except for the general sample of parishioners, a majority of the other three groups saw a need for one or both types of Catholic school in the area.

When asked which model of school they preferred, over 80% in each group favored Model 1, the middle school. Between 33% and 43% favored the high school model. A fifth of the teachers but only about 15% of the other three groups indicated they favored another model. Among those in all four Hibbing/Virginia groups who indicated a preference for another model, the written preferences are listed Figure 3a, below.

The type of construction appears not to be a concern since over three quarters of each group favored the most cost-effective alternative. Only respondents from the random sample of parishioners indicated some preference for a remodeled existing building (19%).

Respondents were asked about the types of program they would want in a middle or high school should one be built. Computer technology skills and science labs received the highest endorsement with 80 to 99 percent checking those options. Music programs came in a strong third place. Least preferred but receiving approximately a majority among respondents in each group were work skills training and extra curricular activities. Preference is clearly for a strong science-technology program. Comments on school programs are given in Figure 3b, below.

The questionnaire asked if the respondent would be willing to support in prayer or financially, a Catholic middle or high school if it were decided to create one in their area. Over 80% of parents and key leaders but slightly less than two-thirds of the general parishioners indicated they would support such a project. Two thirds if the teachers indicated they thought parishioners would be supportive.

About half of the general membership and key leaders in this region had children living at home (and 99% of parents, almost by definition of that sample). Item 8 shows the percent breakdown of children by grade level for the three groups for which there are data.

For the general parishioner sample, a higher percent were unlikely to have their children attend a Catholic middle or high school if one were available (35%) than were very likely to attend

(22%). For parents the order is reversed with 20% indicating that their children were very unlikely to attend a Catholic middle or high school versus 40% who were very likely to attend. Note that the parent group are those who have already chosen a Catholic education for their children (and who have children who could go on to a Catholic middle or high school), but a fifth would apparently not send their children to a Catholic middle or high school. Thus the attrition rate among the most likely to attend group is 20 to 29%. Teachers estimated that 80% of parish parents would like to have their children attend a Catholic middle or high school, a figure that is somewhat more optimistic than parents. Because of the low number of respondents, data for key leaders on this question are deemed unreliable and not shown.

When asked how far they would be willing to have their child travel (by bus or car) to attend a Catholic middle or high school, a substantial percentage of parents and general parishioners selected each of the three distance categories under 20 miles (see item 10). Only about 10% would agree to a 20-mile or longer one-way travel distance for their child.

Eighty-three percent of the general parishioner sample could not afford or would have considerable difficulty paying tuition at the \$4,500-\$5,500 rate, compared to 67% for current parents. Seventy-seven percent of teachers felt that parents would have considerable difficulty or would not be able to afford tuition this high. Less than a quarter of each of the three groups for which there are data, could probably afford the tuition and almost no one indicated they could definitely afford this tuition (except 9% of current parents). Line 8 in Table 3 provides a percentage distribution of the grade level for the children of respondents. This distribution can be used as rates to help anticipate the number of children that may be eligible for any proposed school grade level.

Respondents were primarily currently married (74% to 91%). Although key leaders were more evenly divided on gender, the other groups of respondents were more likely to be women. The vast majority of respondents were themselves Catholic (92% of parishioners, 86% of parents, and 100% of key leaders). A slightly lower percentage in each group had spouses who were Catholic as well. Except for the general parishioner sample, a majority were college graduates or had an advanced degree (44% for parishioners, 71% of parents, and 82% of key leaders). The average age of respondents was about 55 years except for parents who averaged 40 years old. Most respondents had lived an average of about 34 years in their community although parents averaged 20 years reflecting their younger average age (see Table 3, line 14).

Nearly a third (31%) of leaders made comments on the back of the questionnaire, 25% of parents and 18% for members and teachers in the Hibbing/Virginia region. These extra, summary comments are listed in Figure 3c, below. Comments are generally organized from more positive to those with concerns to the more negative. More general comments are at the end of the list.

Table 3
Responses by Area Stakeholders to Questions about the Need for a Catholic Middle and/or High School, Hibbing/Virginia Region, 1999.

| Items | Member Sample ¹³ | Parents ¹⁴ | Teachers ¹⁵ | Key Leaders ¹⁶ |
|---|---|--|--|--|
| 1. In your judgment, is there a need for a Catholic middle school and/or a Catholic high school in the Hibbing/Virginia area? Yes, we need a Catholic middle school Yes, we need a Catholic high school Yes, we need both schools No current opinion No need for either school (skip to #5) Totals | 22% 2 22 25 29 100% (183) ¹⁷ | 25% 0 46 7 22 100% (89) | 33% 5 52 5 5 100% (21) | 23% 0 39 16 23 100% (31) |
| 2. Which of the following models do you think the Diocese should pursue at this time? <i>Model 1:</i> Middle school (grades 6-8) with location in this area, about 200 enrollment, 1/20 teacher student ratio, full academic and religious curriculum extra curricular programs, annual tuition \$4,500 to \$5,500 per person, opening in 1-5 years. <i>Model 2:</i> High school (grades 9-12) with location in this area, about 200 enrollment, 1/20 teacher student ratio, full academic and religious curriculum, extra curricular programs annual tuition \$4,500 to \$5,500 per person, opening in 1-5 years. <i>Other preferred model:</i> | 84% (108) 33% (108) 14% (108) | 90% (71) 41% (71) 16% (71) | 84% (19) 37% (19) 21% (19) | 90% (21) 43% (21) 14% (21) |
| 3. Should a Catholic middle school or Catholic high school be: New Construction A remodeled existing building if available New or existing building depending on which is most cost-effective. Totals | 4% 19 77 100% (110) | 10% 6 84 100% (69) | 5% 0 95 100% (20) | 14% 9 77 100% (22) |

¹³ This group is a separate random sample from the general parish household list.

¹⁴ Parents of Catholic elementary school. All were sent the questionnaire. Some parents may also be teachers and/or key leaders.

¹⁵ Some teachers may also be parents and/or key leaders.

¹⁶ Some key leaders may also be parents and/or teachers.

¹⁷ The number in parentheses is the total number of respondents upon which percentages are based.

Table 3, Hibbing/Virginia, continued.

| Items | Member Sample | Parents | Teachers | Key Leaders |
|--|---------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|
| 4. What key programs should a Catholic middle school and/or high school have, in addition to a strong Catholic identity? | | | | |
| Sports | 68% | 70% | 53% | 50% |
| <i>Computer technology skills</i> | 95% | 96% | 79% | 85% |
| <i>Science labs</i> | 89% | 99% | 84% | 80% |
| Music | 81% | 90% | 79% | 79% |
| Drama | 53% | 67% | 58% | 50% |
| Arts | 70% | 77% | 68% | 60% |
| Literature | 69% | 77% | 58% | 60% |
| World languages | 70% | 77% | 79% | 75% |
| College prep | 73% | 79% | 79% | 70% |
| Work skills training | 57% | 50% | 53% | 55% |
| Extra curricular activities | 58% | 69% | 58% | 60% |
| Other desired programs (please list) | 11% | 17% | 26% | 0% |
| Base of each of the percentages | (108) | (70) | (19) | (20) |
| 5. Would you be willing to support (in prayer and/or financially through your parish) a Catholic middle school or high school if the diocese decided that there was a need for such a school in your area? | | | | |
| No | 37% | 17% | N/A ¹⁸ | 14% |
| Yes | 63 | 83 | | 86 |
| Totals | 100% (165) | 100% (89) | | 100% (28) |
| 6. Estimate of percent of parishioners who would be supportive of a new Catholic middle and/or high school | N/A | N/A | 67% (21) | N/A |
| 7. Percent who have children living at home. | 49% (181) | 99% (91) | N/A | 50% (30) |

¹⁸ N/A indicates that the question was not asked of this group.

Table 3, Hibbing/Virginia, continued.

| Items | Member Sample | Parents | Teachers | Key Leaders |
|--|---------------|---------------|----------|---------------------|
| 8. Percent of children at home who are in each grade level | | | | |
| 1 st grade | 15% | 24% | | 15% |
| 2 nd grade | 13 | 10 | N/A | 4 |
| 3 rd grade | 7 | 11 | | 11 |
| 4 th grade | 10 | 12 | | 4 |
| 5 th grade | 8 | 11 | | 11 |
| 6 th grade | 6 | 10 | | 11 |
| 7 th grade | 12 | 7 | | 7 |
| 8 th grade | 3 | 6 | | 7 |
| 9 th grade | 4 | 3 | | 7 |
| 10 th grade | 11 | 3 | | 7 |
| 11 th grade | 7 | 3 | | 7 |
| 12 th grade | <u>4</u> | <u>1</u> | | <u>7</u> |
| Totals | 100% (91) | 100% (165) | | 100% (27) |
| 8. How likely is it that one or more of your children would attend a Catholic middle school or Catholic high school if one were available? | | | | |
| Very unlikely to attend | 35% | 20% | N/A | Low N ¹⁹ |
| 2 | 14 | 9 | | |
| 3 | 22 | 16 | | |
| 4 | 8 | 16 | | |
| Very likely to attend | <u>22</u> | <u>40</u> | | |
| Totals | 100% (88) | 100% (90) | | |
| 9. Estimate of percentage of parish parents who would like their children to attend a Catholic middle and/or high school. | N/A | N/A | 80% (20) | N/A |
| 10. How far would you be willing to have your child travel (by car or bus) to attend a Catholic middle school or Catholic high school if one were available? | | | | |
| Up to 4 miles one way | 31% | 24% | N/A | Low N |
| 5 to 9 miles one way | 28 | 35 | | |
| 10 to 19 miles one way | 33 | 29 | | |
| 20 or more miles one way | <u>8</u> | <u>11</u> | | |
| Totals | 100% (72) | 100% (79) | | |

¹⁹ In this report, percentages are not reported where the number of cases upon which they are based is lower than 19.

Table 3, Hibbing/Virginia, continued.

| Items | Member Sample | Parents | Teachers | Key Leaders |
|--|---|---|--|--|
| 11. Tuition projections suggest that the yearly cost would be about \$4,500. To \$5,500 per pupil per year. How difficult would it be for your family to afford this level of tuition? Could not afford Would have considerable difficulty Probably could afford Definitely could afford Totals | 53% 30 17 0 100% (87) | 37% 30 23 9 100% (86) | 23% ²⁰ 54 23 = 100% (20) | Low N |
| 11. Marital status Currently married Single, never married Widow/widower Separated or divorced Other Totals | 78% 3 12 8 0 100% (187) | 91% 2 0 6 0 100% (92) | N/A | 74% 0 23 3 0 100% (31) |
| 12. Average age of respondent | 54.1 | 40.1 | 54.3 | 56.3 |
| 13. Respondent's gender Male Female Totals | 32% 68 100% (179) | 15% 85 100% (91) | N/A | 43% 57 100% (30) |
| 14. Average years in this community | 34.8 | 20.2 | 34.4 | 33.5 |
| 15. Respondent's religious affiliation (percent Catholic) | 92% (183) | 86% (90) | N/A | 100% (31) |
| 16. Spouse's religious affiliation (percent Catholic) | 78% (156) | 71% (80) | | 86% (22) |

²⁰ The question to teachers was to estimate whether local families could afford a Catholic middle or high school.

Table 3, Hibbing/Virginia, continued.

| Items | Member Sample | Parents | Teachers | Key Leaders |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| 17. Respondent's education Grade school or less Some high school High school graduate Some vocational school Vocational school graduate Some college College graduate Some post graduate college Post graduate or professional degree Totals | 0% 3 14 4 10 24 25 6 13 100% (195) | 0% 0 2 3 6 17 37 14 20 100% (92) | N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A | 0% 0 3 0 3 12 28 16 38 100% (32) |
| 18. Made comments on back of questionnaire (shown in the appendix) | 18% (195) | 25% (92) | 18% (22) | 31% (32) |

Figure 3a: Comments on Models by Hibbing/Virginia Area Respondents

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Wouldn't use in Virginia | High tuition |
| Too high tuition | Hibbing |
| Start with middle school and build up | Grade school |
| Separate | Extend K-8 |
| None | Expend present school |
| Neither-to expensive | Combine 6-12 |
| Need 6-12 | Christian based |
| Most needed 6-8 | Can't afford |
| More affordable | Build middle school |
| Middle school | Both 6-12 |
| Lower tuition | Area can't support |
| Like Assumption. | Affordability? |
| Kids will finish HS soon | \$2500-3500 |

Figure 3b: Comments on Programs by Hibbing/Virginia Respondents

Sports
Share w/ public
Physical education
Mandatory time
Library
Combine w/ public schools

Figure 3c: General Comments at End of Questionnaire – Hibbing/Virginia

- 1 We resided in Duluth for approximately 13 years prior to returning to the Iron Range. While in Duluth, I had an opportunity to familiarize myself with Duluth Marshall (Cathedral). I believe an institution, such as Marshall, would be unique to the area. More importantly a college prep school is something that should be considered for this area. In terms of location, I would suggest a site near Ironworld (Chisholm). It is centrally located. In addition there is currently a vacant school located across the street from Chisholm Catholic Church -- St. Josephs.
- 2 This school has taught my children along with myself, compassion, respect, and dedication in life. One reason I chose it was because I am a single mother and I felt I needed all the help I could get to raise my children. I believe a middle school would benefit our kids in every way. In this world with no discipline or respect any more, my children could not be in a better place. Good luck in your decision-making!
- 3 My eight-year-old son, who attends Marquette school, was very excited when I told him here might be a possibility of attending a Catholic high school. He loves his school!
- 4 I myself teach at a public high school and would MUCH prefer to continue sending my children to Catholic, if it was made available. In this world, we parents appreciate the student-teacher ratio and the religious aspect of the parochial schools. Thank you.
- 5 There is a definite need and interest in having a Catholic Middle school in the Hibbing area. Especially since the public schools have gone to a middle school concept. Children entering adolescence are forming Christian values and commitments.(to the Church and others) that will be keystones for the rest of their lives. They need our support at this stage so they will have the knowledge and courage to do Christ's work on earth.
- 6 The Hibbing Middle School has a reputation of being pretty rough - drugs, gangs, etc. My friends have home schooled their kids rather than send them to the Lincoln. I would much rather send my son to a disciplined and secure Catholic Middle School than to the only Middle School available at this time.
- 7 Wish this were available when my children were attending school. I would have been willing to drive to Hibbing for this.
- 8 We would strongly support a middle or high school (Catholic) in Virginia. I believe Marquette used to have grades up through 8th (and possibly 12th) in the past. Is there a possibility of this happening again in the near future?
- 9 Our children would only attend a middle school if it as in Virginia. A good pre-college prep school like Marshall in Duluth would work in Hibbing or Virginia.
- 10 Would need to continue to welcome non-Catholics. The other protestant parochial school is relatively weak. I know many other non-Catholics who want a God-centered education for their kids, especially in the important middle school years. To attract these people would need a strong curriculum, including sports. St. Leo's lost many 6th grade boys to public school this year because of sports (lack of.)
- 11 We have been strong supporters of Catholic grade school. We feel our three children have been nurtured and blessed by attending St. Leo's, but as our children have grown and interests have developed, the Catholic school has not always been able to offer them what they desire as in more friends, sports, and other activities. These reservations extend into the next level of Catholic education. Although, we feel it is important that Catholic middle and high school are available for other people.

Figure 3c, Hibbing/Virginia, continued.

- 12 We would have sent our children to a Catholic middle and high school if available in our area. Instead they attended the local high school. Our daughter went to a Catholic college for her undergraduate education. Our boy went to a private university and the other to the university of MN in the Twin Cities. My daughter is not sure if she made the right choice but would definitely have gone to a Catholic High School if available in our area. Both of our boys were happy with their choices. The point here is a Catholic education is not as important in college education as it is in the elementary, all three went to a Catholic elementary school, and secondary education where the foundation in learning is built and where a learning environment plays a greater role in ones education. We have always regretted the fact that our children did not go to Marshall High School in Duluth, because of the distance.
- 13 This area is very much in need of a Catholic education at higher level than is offered at this time. However, I feel with tuition at that rate - few families would be able to participate.
- 14 I'm glad to see the diocese looking into this project. I have felt for a long time that the diocese needs to show their support to our Catholic elementary schools. I think our diocese financially should be helping out the schools and the Bishop's presence in each school should be yearly. I have not been pleased with the diocese of Duluth, because their presence has not been felt at Marquette. This is a good step for you to take.
- 15 This is a great idea - the Hibbing school district is too large for our comfort/safety level. The kids today need more faith, morals, and positive peer groups, and positive role models. However, I have found in the first of kindergarten that this is an elite group of "have's" who are not necessarily interested in good values, etc. They can afford it so they send their kids. High School (and middle school) would be more of the same and escalated. The tuition is too high for most of us - it's just like college. We have NO money we use pennies to buy milk etc. So every fundraiser was a struggle for us. Our kindergarten learned that most obscene gesture and stereotypical gender based ideas from classmates. When we caught her we blew up. It took a lot of thought to send her and her sister back. Even now I'm not sure it's the best idea.
- 16 I think a Catholic middle school would be nice, but 4000 is very high for tuition.
- 17 Because of the larger population of Hibbing, I feel quite sure that a middle/high school would be located there. We would not be as liable to use it. Also, this tuition (while justifiable from a cost of service standpoint) would be difficult to justify for us as the local public schools can still deliver an adequate education. Unless vouchers or some other savings reduced the tuition obligation, we need to save for college!
- 18 I do feel the education the kids would get would be better than in the public schools but this is also a time for social growth etc & my daughter had a hard time with only 8 total girls. It was hard to find someone else or to get away from them. She blossomed when she got into 7th grade and had many other friends to choose from. As they both reached 6th grade it seemed that they were ready to be with more kids. Going through 7yrs of school with the same 15-20 kids you become like a family & the other kids seem like your own & you get to know the families well. I guess that's a pos. to a small school. So looking at it there are pos. & neg. to it all It's just what you feel would work the best for you & your kids. I would definitely send them to a Catholic k-6th grade if I had to do it all over again. Good luck with this & it would be nice to have the choice even if we were to choose not to attend.
- 19 I feel there is a strong need for a Catholic Middle School and High School. But we need stronger support from our parish, like the Hibbing Catholic schools get. It is travesty that we get such little support from the Virginia/ Mt. Iron Parish!!! Please help us in this matter.
- 20 Yes, we do need both a Catholic Middle School and a Catholic High School. But with our population going down steadily and our working conditions are so unpredictable, here on the Iron Range that I just can't see it as a feasible undertaking. Oh yes, don't get me wrong. It would be just wonderful and I would be in favor of both schools but the above words tell it all. God Bless you all.

Figure 3c, Hibbing/Virginia, continued.

- 21 I am a 74yr old widow. My retirement income is low. My children are grown and live away from this diocese. Because I am not connected with the schools and needs of our community's children. I feel I do not have the information to make a fair judgment on whether we should build more schools. However, if a majority of families with school -age children are in favor of a Catholic school(s) in this area. I would support the school(s) because I do not feel that elderly or retired residents of a community should abandon the educational needs and wishes because their children no longer need or are using these services. Perhaps we need to pay more attention to the needs of our public schools.
- 22 At the time Cathedral in Duluth was built, some of us asked that a boarding wing be included. Today it is Marshal. When we moved to the Range in 19xx they assured us there would be a high school on the Range. Our sons were under the age of three -our daughters were born here. The boys went to St. John's public school. The girls St. Francis & Good Counsel. I still believe we need a choice in education; we are the only democracy that doesn't help. Perhaps the place to begin it with is the voucher system.
- 23 I would like to see a middle school or high school; however; in watching what is happening with the Hibbing Catholic schools and our public schools it gives me great concern. It seems at times we are not making good decisions. We need to for sure have a good sound Pre-K- 5th, 6th grade. At this time we are even lacking in some of these areas. For instance there is no computer teacher. This should be a must, a lot of demand for volunteers however you don't get it! You always see the familiar faces that help out everywhere. No one wants to have tuition go up. How can it not when you have to pay teachers? They do not get paid to standards either for the excellent teachers they are. This seems why we don't have any male teachers. Alone as a breadwinner for a family they could not survive! I know what a good education my child is getting and feel fortunate that we can send her! People must remember that it is not a "lay" group who are our teachers. They are all receiving salaries! And to mention again, not enough. We don't want to lose a good foundation for our children. In talking to other parents I don't know how many truly can afford a middle/high school option.
- 24 Both my children received excellent grade school education at the Assumption in Hibbing. My youngest (7th grade) was all for a middle school. I have complete faith in the quality of the "basics" they would receive in (Middle/High) Catholic School. My concern would be athletics & opportunities available & would like to see something worked out with the public schools. As this too, is a part of there youth.
- 25 I do not need these for my family but my son and his wife live in this area & feel these schools would be something they would like their daughters to attend.
- 26 It would be so great but I don't think the Range could handle this unless it goes to one community & it is so needed with the way the world is...
- 27 Catholic middle schools and high schools are important, but I just believe that you won't find enough students to afford to keep the schools open. Many families are moving away from the Iron Range. That way our teenage population is getting less and less, then half of those teens don't attend church and can't afford to go to college.
- 28 I believe Catholic schools would be a great value - but I am not able to support it.
- 29 I don't think the area could support a Catholic High School. Public schools are having a hard time. There are too many older retired people in the area. On our retirement we could not support a school
- 30 Population of Hibbing at one time was over 21,000 - now is 18,000 the younger generation - after graduation leave for other parts of the country - the population, mostly senior citizens - living on a pension or Social Security - others on welfare - who can't afford a Catholic education - let alone those who are working - probably can only afford the necessitates - you are talking about 1. Catholic Education (cost) 2. Build and Maintain school 4. Teachers, janitors, etc. 3. Busing to school
- 31 I feel that being unfeasible for our family to afford this, it seems hard to assess the need level of the whole idea. We are not in the 'class' to consider it.

Figure 3c, Hibbing/Virginia, continued.

- 32 I feel that the tuition cost is very high, especially in this area. The average family income is approximately \$30,000-\$40,000 per year. They should also give parents incentive with tuition example: If tuition is paid in full by Sept. 1, they should offer a 10% discount. And if a family has 2 children in school give them a 20% discount, 3 or more a 30% discount. They don't offer any discounts for large families! I also feel they should have to wear uniforms in a private school.
- 33 Good teachers must have decent pay to retain or get them into a school system. Sometimes good work environments will compensate for less pay.
- 34 1 At the present time, the economic situation is stable. The question is " Will it continue?" What if it goes "kaput"? 2 Since the majority of parishioners are ordinary working men, can they afford to pay tuition of \$4,500-\$5,500 a year, especially if there are several children in the family? There is no tuition in the public schools. 3 Young people leave the communities to find better jobs elsewhere so young population declines. 4 The population of the Range town is aging, so the communities will be no doubt a majority of senior citizens eventually. Their families are gone. They no longer have children attending school. I've heard other senior citizens state that they would not support another Catholic school. 5 From conversation, I gather that the conscientious parishioners feel that supporting the church and the present Catholic School is all they can afford, and they would not be willing to accept another financial obligation. As I hear, the Catholic Schools are doing a fine job and deserve the credit. Those children have a good foundation. However the burden, financial and operational, of a middle school or high school would be excessive.
- 35 I graduated from a Catholic elementary school that had grades through 8th grade and a Catholic High school. I respect the education and the religious background it instilled in me to this day. With declining enrollment in this area I'm not sure if these would be enough support for one.
- 36 As much as I would like to see it happens, I believe our families would be much better served by strengthening our existing schools! I feel it's a slap-in-the-face to the teachers who have so faithfully served our schools and made very little salary - put the dollars into allowing us to be able to offer our teachers a better salary we can attract more quality teachers which in turn, will attract more students.
- 37 The first problem with this is that you want to locate it in the Virginia/Hibbing area. These kids get up early enough just to go to Mesabi East Schools. Financially putting them thru the school at 4-5 thousand dollars per child is out of the question. We all are paycheck to paycheck as it is! By the time all this gets figured out, our three children will be graduated from Mesabi East. Thank you.
- 38 I attended a meeting in Hibbing last winter re: a Catholic middle school was appalled at the principal's responses to very realistic questions. She assumed that the school would be in the existing Assumption building and that there were "nooks and crannies" that could be used to "stuff the kids." No thought had been given to computer labs, science labs, and athletics and fine arts facilities. She made it sound as if they would open with a skeleton staff of non-certified and non-professional "teachers" who could leap from one area of learning to the next. We had an accredited Catholic school in our community until consolidation took place. Why keep stepping down? No thank you. We are out of here!
- 39 I don't think a Catholic High School/Middle School would be well attended in this area. It is a rare thing to even see the youngsters in this age group attend Sunday mass. A very small percentage of young Catholics come on a regular basis. What are the chances that parents would opt of spend 4500 per year to send them when they won't even enforce the Sunday obligation - which is free? This sounds negative, but I feel it is a reality. As a diocese we need to focus on how to get in active Catholics back into the fold then perhaps there might be enough interested students and parents in a Catholic High School. At the present time our Catholic grade school, Marquette, struggles financially.
- 40 My husband and I are not convinced that academic excellence can be achieved with the small numbers (and therefore finances) that would likely come to a Catholic school. We would appreciate the "Catholic Identity" but are not willing to sacrifice or even take a chance on the academics.

Figure 3c, Hibbing/Virginia, continued.

- 41 Personally my son, husband and I have very much-valued Marquette. The parochial school experience has been great but it would be hard to continue financially. Tuition and cost now is too much. Time and energy we transport because we do not live in town. In 7th grade (public) he will ride a bus to community school, probably. We are getting too old. Husband may retire in 4 years. There may be need, but I do not believe it is in sufficient numbers.
- 42 I must admit that I am somewhat prejudiced in that I have (2) public school teachers in my family. They are underpaid as it is - so more leaning toward public school needs - etc.
- 43 I oppose pursuing either a Catholic middle or high school. I do not feel the community or parish can support one. The grade schools constantly struggle for funding and have seen enrollment decrease as tuition dramatically increased, at least at Assumption. If there ever emerges enough money, the teachers deserve higher wages; they are paid far below public schools.
- 44 With tuition of 4500 to 5500 a proposed Catholic middle school/high school would become a school for the elite. Our Hibbing public schools are exceptional and we would choose public schools if the tuition was that high. Thank you for the survey.
- 45 Marquette school does a lot of fund raising events to help support the school needs. It is a majority of people participating in these whose children attend Marquette. So in addition to tuition we contribute a large amount at all the said events. Events need to be more community orientated to draw a larger population. Also the church and Diocese should contribute more to the schools. Catholic schools are very important to our children and to everyone. More money should be channeled to the Catholic schools. A hard look should be taken at all the financial support the Diocese sends out of the dioceses and out of the country. Charity should begin at home! Our children desperately need a good education. I'm sure it would increase the numbers of young people entering into the priesthood as well as helping our future society as a whole.
- 46 My wife and I both attended Catholic grade school in Hibbing. It was a wonderful experience for both of us. However, we feel that after 6th grade our children should be integrated into the public school system.
- 47 It seems to me you should concentrate on the problem you do have without creating more. The dire shortage of priests should be #1. There doesn't seem to be enough young people to warrant building new schools in this area. I surely don't see any of them at mass on Sunday. I really don't think we can afford anymore! Seems many of the churches in this area have not reached the goal in UCA. Besides it seems almost everyday we get a letter begging for one thing or another. There's plenty of room in the schools that are already here for the kids we have in the area.
- 48 There is at the present time a vacated school in Chisholm, MN, that is in good condition.
- 49 Why not consider an ecumenical school for a broader student base and financial support? There are probably other area churches that would be willing to support such a school. I believe the Breck Academy in the Twin Cities is officially Episcopalian school, but is, in practice, non-denominational. Religion classes could be broader Christian education, encompassing many Christian faiths with guest speakers from various churches and discussions on moral issues. I believe this is what the Breck Academy does.
- 50 People must be told more of the value of religious education of the Vat II. (It is) watered down (and) turned many people off. All the newer innovations where they think everything goes: "Cafeteria Catholics"
- 51 My husband attended Marquette Catholic school in Virginia. His mother also attended Marquette. I graduated from the College of St. Catherine and then masters from the college of St. Scholastica.

Figure 3c, Hibbing/Virginia, continued.

- 52 I am very thankful that my children are able to attend a Catholic grade school during their most critical years of development. In my opinion the parents who are requesting a Catholic middle school/high school are merely seeking a shelter for their children. I have taken my parental responsibilities seriously and am confident that my children will make the right choices when confronted with serious issues. It is unrealistic to expect any school to reform our children - they re a product of their parents.
- 53 Didn't the Diocese close a Catholic high school in Duluth? We support Catholic elementary schools in our area - However they do not have the standards they had in the past -they are now run as a business by lay staff. BIG difference!!
- 54 Does the possibility exist of beginning a Catholic Middle school and sharing some of the electives with the public schools (i.e. home economics, shop, art) as these often have a high initial cost? I know other school districts that are close in proximity do this.
- 55 If a Catholic middle or high school is not feasible, I would like to see the Diocese start promoting Catholic Home Schooling. There are many excellent programs available provide students with an excellent Catholic education. For us to attend a school such as anticipated it must be solidly orthodox Roman Catholic, utilize Catholic textbooks when available and present a Catholic worldview. The FRILLS are not as important to us as the manner in which the Catholic faith & morals are presented to students. A good solid curriculum with an emphasis on basic core subjects and the faith as well as a sports program would be our desire.
- 56 I feel that the Iron Range communities are made up of mostly retired and old people. Our children have left this area to find jobs and raise their families elsewhere. It appears to me that they are building more nursing homes and apartments rather than schools. The picture may change if more industries come into this area.
- 57 Enough family income is required to support Minnesota's public school system. A Catholic school in this area would undoubtedly prompt public schools into doing a better job or risk losing students to another system. On the other hand losing state aid (per capita) for 200 students hurt a local student system badly.
- 58 In Virginia there are two vacant elementary school buildings, one is the Horace Mann Elem. School. The Virginia school district mentioned that they would give it away for a dollar if someone would move in. It is accessible for handicapped but it is an old school and I suppose would need some updating. The other is an elementary school in the Midway area of Virginia. It was built in the late 50's, early 60's.
- 59 I think there should be funding or more funding for Catholic schools from the Vatican. This would be a good use for the money they receive. Being a single parent now, I could not afford to send my child to a Catholic Middle or High School. He did attend Marquette from preschool thru 6th grade.

3 Brainerd Region

3. The Brainerd Region (see Table 4):

Table 4, below, contains data for Brainerd Region respondents. Figures 4a-4c lists added comments that were provided. Data are provided for parents of elementary school children, the random sample of parishioners, and key leaders in the area.

While over three-quarters of current parents feel that both a Catholic middle and a Catholic high school are needed (Table 4, line 1), key leaders and the random sample of parishioners are considerably less likely to think so. About a third of key leaders see a need of both schools, a quarter have no opinion, and almost a fifth see no need for either type of school. The random sample of parishioners are slightly less decided with a third seeing a need for both schools, a third have no opinion and, again, about a fifth see no need for either type of school.

Among those who see some need, a somewhat larger majority saw a need for a middle school as compared to the high school model although 61% of parents endorsed both a middle and a high school model. Some preferred another model and Figure 4a provides the clarifying comments that they made.

As is true of other regions, the type of construction is apparently not an issue. From two thirds to three quarters of respondents say that the decision should depend on the most cost-effective option.

When asked which programs a school should include, over 90% say it should include computer technology skills. Music, college preparation and science labs also received very strong support. The least supported programs (selected by less than half of respondents) were drama, arts (among key leaders), and extra curricular activities (among parents and key leaders). Work skills training received support of two-thirds of the random sample of parishioners, 56% of parents, and 48% of key leaders (see Table 4, line 4). Comments on other programs are listed in Figure 4b, below.

Two-thirds of parishioners, nearly all (95%) of parents and 71% of key leaders said they would be willing to support a new school in their area in prayer or financially. Least support is evident among parishioners and key leaders in this study.

When asked about having children living at home, 36% of parishioners said yes as did 22% of key leaders and all parents of students currently in Catholic elementary school. Table 4, line 7 provides the breakdown of grade level of these children.

While 69% of parents said it was very likely their child would attend a Catholic middle and/or high school if one were available, only 22% of parishioners with children checked this response. Parishioners with children were much more likely to check the other extreme (44%), very unlikely to attend. There were not a sufficient number of key leaders with children at home to provide data for this group.

In general, a quarter of parishioners and parents would be willing to have their children travel 20 or more miles one way to attend a Catholic middle and/or high school. The majority of both groups would agree to a travel distance of 10-19 miles.

For both parishioners and parents, the largest percentage say they could not afford the proposed \$4,500 to \$5,500 tuition (58% for parishioners and 49% for parents). Only 10% of parishioners and 7% of parents said they definitely could afford this level of tuition. Line 7 of Table 4 provides the percentage distribution of children of respondents by grade level. This will be useful in estimating the number of eligible children for any given grade and year.

Respondent's from the Brainerd region were predominantly married (see line 19), women (except for key leaders where 62% of respondent's were men), and nearly (91%-100%) were Catholic with Catholic spouses (79% to 89%). In terms of education, 60% of parishioners had at least some college compared to 71% of parents and 64% of key leaders. The average age of respondents was 57 years for the random parishioner sample, 61 for key leaders and 39 for parents. Average years in the community for respondents was 20 for parents, 22 for key leaders, and 25 for the random sample of parishioners.

A quarter to a third wrote added comments on the back of their questionnaires and these comments are listed in Figure 4c, below. Comments are generally organized from more positive to those with concerns to the more negative. More general comments are at the end of the list.

Table 4
Responses by Area Stakeholders to Questions about the Need for a Catholic Middle and/or High School, Brainerd Region, 1999.

| Items | Member Sample ²¹ | Parents ²² | Key Leaders ²³ |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. In your judgment, is there a need for a Catholic middle school and/or a Catholic high school in the Brainerd area? | | | |
| Yes, we need a Catholic middle school | 9% | 9% | 9% |
| <i>Yes, we need a Catholic high school</i> | 5 | 7 | 12 |
| Yes, we need both schools | 33 | 77 | 36 |
| No current opinion | 33 | 5 | 24 |
| No need for either school (skip to #5) | <u>19</u> | <u>2</u> | <u>18</u> |
| Totals | 100% (129) | 100% (43) | 100% (33) |
| 2. Which of the following models do you think the Diocese should pursue at this time? | | | |
| <i>Model 1:</i> Middle school (grades 6-8) with location in this area, about 200 enrollment, 1/20 teacher student ratio, full academic and religious curriculum extra curricular programs, annual tuition \$4,500 to \$5,500 per person, opening in 1-5 years. | 68% (71) | 61% (41) | 78% (23) |
| <i>Model 2:</i> High school (grades 9-12) with location in this area, about 200 enrollment, 1/20 teacher student ratio, full academic and religious curriculum, extra curricular programs annual tuition \$4,500 to \$5,500 per person, opening in 1-5 years. | 56% (71) | 61% (41) | 52% (23) |
| <i>Other preferred model:</i> | 20% (71) | 32% (41) | 22% (23) |
| 3. Should a Catholic middle school or Catholic high school be: | | | |
| New Construction | 8% | 5% | 9% |
| A remodeled existing building if available | 14 | 18 | 27 |
| New or existing building depending on which is <i>most cost-effective.</i> | 78 | 78 | 64 |
| Totals | 100% (73) | 100% (40) | 100% (22) |

²¹ This group is a separate random sample from the general parish household list.

²² Parents of Catholic elementary school. All were sent the questionnaire. Some parents may also be teachers and/or key leaders.

²³ Some key leaders may also be parents and/or teachers.

Table 4, Brainerd, continued.

| Items | Member Sample | Parents | Key Leaders |
|--|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| 4. What key programs should a Catholic middle school and/or high school have, in addition to a strong Catholic identity? | | | |
| Sports | 66% | 63% | 52% |
| <i>Computer technology skills</i> | 90% | 95% | 96% |
| Science labs | 68% | 71% | 87% |
| Music | 79% | 76% | 65% |
| Drama | 49% | 42% | 44% |
| Arts | 63% | 68% | 48% |
| Literature | 60% | 66% | 65% |
| World languages | 66% | 71% | 74% |
| College prep | 78% | 80% | 87% |
| Work skills training | 66% | 56% | 48% |
| Extra curricular activities | 57% | 46% | 35% |
| Other desired programs (please list) | 4% | 10% | 26% |
| Base of each of the percentages | (76) | (41) | (23) |
| 5. Would you be willing to support (in prayer and/or financially through your parish) a Catholic middle school or high school if the diocese decided that there was a need for such a school in your area? | | | |
| No | 35% | 5% | 29% |
| Yes | 65 | 95 | 71 |
| Totals | 100% (101) | 100% (42) | 100% (31) |
| 6. Percent who have children living at home. | 36% (121) | 100% (43) | 22% (32) |
| 7. Percent of children at home who are in each grade level | | | |
| 1 st grade | 15% | 13% | 8% |
| 2 nd grade | 13 | 10 | 8 |
| 3 rd grade | 9 | 11 | 0 |
| 4 th grade | 11 | 9 | 0 |
| 5 th grade | 2 | 15 | 0 |
| 6 th grade | 2 | 8 | 8 |
| 7 th grade | 17 | 9 | 0 |
| 8 th grade | 2 | 10 | 33 |
| 9 th grade | 2 | 4 | 0 |
| 10 th grade | 13 | 8 | 25 |
| 11 th grade | 9 | 4 | 17 |
| 12 th grade | <u>4</u> | <u>1</u> | <u>0</u> |
| Totals | 100% (46) | 100% (93) | 100% (12) |

Table 4, Brainerd, continued.

| Items | Member Sample | Parents | Key Leaders |
|--|---|--|--|
| <p>8. How likely is it that one or more of your children would attend a Catholic middle school or Catholic high school if one were available?</p> <p>Very unlikely to attend</p> <p>2</p> <p>3</p> <p>4</p> <p>Very likely to attend</p> <p>Totals</p> | <p>44%</p> <p>12</p> <p>12</p> <p>10</p> <p><u>22</u></p> <p>100%</p> <p>(41)</p> | <p>7%</p> <p>2</p> <p>7</p> <p>14</p> <p><u>69</u></p> <p>100%</p> <p>(42)</p> | <p>Low N²⁴</p> |
| <p>9. How far would you be willing to have your child travel (by car or bus) to attend a Catholic middle school or Catholic high school if one were available?</p> <p>Up to 4 miles one way</p> <p>5 to 9 miles one way</p> <p>10 to 19 miles one way</p> <p>20 or more miles one way</p> <p>Totals</p> | <p>12%</p> <p>18</p> <p>47</p> <p><u>24</u></p> <p>100%</p> <p>(34)</p> | <p>3%</p> <p>20</p> <p>51</p> <p><u>26</u></p> <p>100%</p> <p>(39)</p> | <p>Low N</p> |
| <p>10. Tuition projections suggest that the yearly cost would be about \$4,500. To \$5,500 per pupil per year. How difficult would it be for your family to afford this level of tuition?</p> <p>Could not afford</p> <p>Would have considerable difficulty</p> <p>Probably could afford</p> <p>Definitely could afford</p> <p>Totals</p> | <p>58%</p> <p>24</p> <p>7</p> <p><u>10</u></p> <p>100%</p> <p>(41)</p> | <p>49%</p> <p>28</p> <p>16</p> <p><u>7</u></p> <p>100%</p> <p>(43)</p> | <p>Low N</p> |
| <p>19. Marital status</p> <p>Currently married</p> <p>Single, never married</p> <p>Widow/widower</p> <p>Separated or divorced</p> <p>Other</p> <p>Totals</p> | <p>77%</p> <p>2</p> <p>14</p> <p>6</p> <p>0</p> <p>100%</p> <p>(132)</p> | <p>79%</p> <p>5</p> <p>2</p> <p>14</p> <p><u>0</u></p> <p>100%</p> <p>(43)</p> | <p>94%</p> <p>0</p> <p>6</p> <p>0</p> <p>0</p> <p>100%</p> <p>(36)</p> |
| <p>20. Average age of respondent</p> | <p>56.6</p> | <p>39.2</p> | <p>60.9</p> |

²⁴ The table does not show percentages where the base of percentages is less than 10 respondents.

Table 4, Brainerd, continued.

| Items | Member Sample | Parents | Key Leaders |
|--|--|---|---|
| 21. Respondent's gender Male Female Totals | 33% <u>67</u> 100% (127) | 17% <u>83</u> 100% (41) | 62% <u>38</u> 100% (34) |
| 22. Average years in this community | 24.9 | 20.4 | 22.0 |
| 23. Respondent's religious affiliation (percent Catholic) | 97% (126) | 91% (43) | 100% (35) |
| 24. Spouse's religious affiliation (percent Catholic) | 79% (103) | 89% (35) | 88% (34) |
| 25. Respondent's education Grade school or less Some high school High school graduate Some vocational school Vocational school graduate Some college College graduate Some post graduate college Post graduate or professional degree Totals | 4% 5 24 3 6 19 16 8 <u>17</u> 100% (144) | 0% 0 13 9 7 16 40 4 <u>11</u> 100% (45) | 0% 5 14 8 8 19 24 5 <u>16</u> 100% (37) |
| 26. Made comments on back of questionnaire (shown in the appendix) | 22% (144) | 33% (45) | 27% (37) |

Figure 4a: Comments on Selected Models by Brainerd Area Respondents

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Tuition high | Model1 fully funded | Combine into 1 building |
| Tuition to high | Model 2 | Combination |
| Too high tuition! | Model 1 | Both |
| Support Catholic schools. | Lower tuition | 9-12 |
| Sliding scale tuition | Location problem | 8-12 |
| Old tech college site in Brainerd | Have no children | 8-12 |
| Not qualified | Grand Rapids area | 6-9 to blend with public |
| No opinion | Grades currently avail. | 10-12 |
| Need 8-12 | Don't know | |
| Model2 | Combine w/ public schools | |

Figure 4b: Comments on Proposed Programs by Brainerd Area Respondents

We need all
Uniforms
Special education
Share w public
Service to church
Religion
Religion
Religion
Other programs noted
Life skills
Film studies
Economics
College prep
Choices
Catholic faith
All like public

Figure 4c: General Comments at End of Questionnaire – Brainerd

- 1 I taught public high school students for 25 years and feel a real need for a Catholic education for our young people. I myself am the product of the Mn public schools and attended college at St. Catherine University for all my college and postgraduate degree. We had no Catholic parents insisted that I attend a Catholic college and I thank them for that! While participating in our parish I realize how limited my grass roots Catholic education was my not having the experience of a Catholic school at an early age.
- 2 If this actually happened it would be a big answer to prayer. We feel that it is important to raise our girls with good morals and values as taught in the Catholic schools. We believe the children benefit from the smaller classroom size and get some individual needs met in this way, whether it be academically, spiritually, etc. We are so blessed to currently have them in a Catholic grade school. If a new school is built, close attention would need to be on the teachers whom they chose to teach. We believe their faith life is most important and that they abide the magisterium of the church and our Catholic sacraments. THIS is more than a job, it's a commitment to pass on the Catholic faith to our children and for the teachers to always be informed and educated in our faith.
- 3 I feel St. Francis school needs to look forward to a middle school and then maybe to a high school. I think parents need to know that their children will have advanced education and this will help all grades in the school.
- 4 We are most interested in assisting the Roman Catholic diocese in helping and making this dream of a Catholic middle and high school in Brainerd a reality! This thought is often in our prayers and devotions. Event though we are now again living in (in a western state) our hearts want this school and plan to succeed, very much so!
- 5 I believe it would be wonderful to have Catholic middle schools and high schools and I hope it will be possible. However, I don't feel qualified to comment I have no family in diocesan schools and really cannot conceive of a family financially able to afford the tuition for 2 or 3 children.
- 6 Catholic schools are probably the best place to get an excellent education, both academically and socially as well as morally. I teach in a small public school that, by government rules regulations and bureaucracy, is rapidly becoming a place where parents dump their parental responsibilities upon teachers and administration. Discipline in public schools has been eroded over the past several decades and the love of learning has been eradicated from our public schools. If a Catholic school were a bit closer to my home I would definitely send my daughter, we may have two daughters soon go to it and would probably teach in it as well.

Figure 4c, Brainerd, continued.

- 7 Although our child is only one and a half, we are already preparing for his future education. We feel at this time that our best option for a Roman Catholic education is home schooling, and are preparing for the loss of one income and the additional expenses which will incur. Our parents, grandparents and great grandparents sent as many of their children to Catholic schools as possible. Our expectations are much the same as theirs were we expect a permanent religious teaching presence in the school such as priests, nuns and brothers we expect that daily mass and regular devotions be part of each day. We expect that Catholic curriculum materials be used throughout the subject areas whenever possible, and of course, we expect that the teachers be practicing Catholics of high moral standards who are faithful to the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. We would hope that as an issue for social justice and improved attrition rates, teachers be compensated with a wage and benefit package competitive with that of public schools. The Brainerd Lakes Area is ripe for a high quality, fine arts center with professional quality teachers such as the one at St. Francis in Little Falls. This could be a source of supportive income for the school while filling a great need to the entire area and providing a Catholic witness to the community. We would also like to suggest the model of the St. Nazianz School near Green Bay, which we believe is closed not. It was a school in which much of the work was done by students light janitorial work, kitchen help and so on. The students were always directed by an adult. Our child will not attend St. Francis grade school unless we are able to see a major change in its current program. The primary qualities we desire are listed above but especially would like to see a stronger Catholic presence and curriculum, daily mass, practicing Catholic teachers with improved morale and education level, and higher academic behavioral standards.
- 8 We are very pleased with the Catholic education our children are receiving at St Francis in Brainerd we would love to have them continue on through 12th grade in a Catholic environment. My wife is a school board member at St Francis. The average tuition is 1000 per student this is a sacrifice for these families a tuition as \$4500-5500 would be 25% of our income. Would the tuition remain this high if existing building were used? For a project of this magnitude it is imperative that the priests assign to the parishes of St Francis and St Andrews are able to work well together and stay focused on the goal.
- 9 My husband and I are products of Catholic education through college. We never experienced public education and are extremely disappointed that we had no alternative in helping to get this project off the ground.
- 10 Because of the high cost of college, I believe the tuition is too high.
- 11 We struggled to send our daughter to Catholic high school and college. We know the value of Catholic education. I don't know how a family could afford the tuition per year per child. Our parish struggles to meet the UCA tax now I don't know where we would fund for another layer of tax.
- 12 Having been very involved with St. Francis the following are some things concerned: The parents need to spend more time fund-raising, the teachers spend too much time complaining, Some areas of education are not sufficient, Not enough opportunities for children, Duluth diocese not working hard enough, facilities not up to standard.
- 13 In response to your survey, and with no disrespect intended, I wish to remind you of the St. Andrews church and school idea of several years ago, which was a total failure concerning the school, and had to be discontinued, and we at St. Francis were assessed to bail them out to pay off their debt. Now, someone has the idea to build and start a middle school and a high school, and the tuition for those schools will be from 4500 to 5500 per student per year. Those students are apparently intended for the students of wealthy parents only. I do not support you idea at all, as I am certain the end result will be the same as the St. Andrews project. This would be wonderful idea if it were conceivable, as I am aware that our children need a good Catholic education, but I cannot foresee This to be a workable plan. Secondly, we do not have any nuns left to teach anymore. I strongly recommend that you give this idea a great deal of thought.

Figure 4c, Brainerd, continued.

- 14 My wife and I sent 6 children through Sacred Heart grade and middle school for their 8 years for schooling and four years at Cathedral high school sacrificing with any or all income we could thinking they should have a good "Catholic" background but in questioning them today they said they enjoyed going to Cathedral but do not recall getting as much religion courses as we would have liked. To this day only one attends church regularly. Of course we donated many dollars to keep Cathedral going and as you know now it's an interfaith school open to anyone so why start all over with Catholic middle and high school only to have the same results in the years down the road. As far as donating more money for this cause we are afraid the answer would be an emphatic "no".

- 15 I have not filled in my Catholic school questionnaire for the Brainerd area because I am single and did not have any children going to school in Brainerd. However, I was a teacher in the senior high school in Brainerd for 25+ years and did not see any reason for not sending a child to Brainerd high school. I am a strict Catholic so if I had seen anything objectionable I would have stood up for my convictions. I think having a Catholic school in Brainerd through 8th grade is great. I is a good school system and thought of highly by Catholics and non-Catholic alike. My fear also is that we get school all set up and because of the tuition the enrollment drops and what so we do with the school. The cost is so much to set up. From the looks of the bulletin each Sunday, it seems that we are not even getting our assessment for the United Catholic Appeal collected. My opinion would be to keep our present Catholic school in Brainerd as current up to date as possible use all possible funds for this purpose. It might be a good idea to build on the present idea of transporting the Catholic children from surrounding communities to Brainerd and let them help us with the expenses. We might give some thought to raising the salaries of these dedicated Catholic schoolteachers as they could easily receive a much higher salary if they taught in public schools. My hat off to these dedicated teachers.

- 16 I don't believe in having Catholic schools at all because we need good kids in our public schools and set a good example for some of the others. Secondly, Catholic children should see society the way it really is. They shouldn't hide from the real world in a private school. Why should we segregate ourselves? I would think that to do God's work we have to live among everybody. Catholics need to go to public schools and share seats on the bus, borrow out pencils, talk to unpopular kids, do God's work in the real world. We need good public schools, too. God is everywhere.

- 17 I attended a Catholic for seven years in the cities and was very proud. As did my four sisters but at this time I am happy with the school's my children attend and or are going to attend. Thank You.

Figure 4c, Brainerd, continued.

- 18 In response to your school needs questionnaire. The needs of St. Francis are the basics of what all-Catholic school grow and build on. First you need a priest that will do his duties. If there is a problem within he should take care of it. Second a principal that is concerned about the basics of what the Catholic religion is based on, and also a concern for the children first, money second. A school board that will step in and tell the administration they are out of line. (the respondent goes into lengthy detail about a specific complaint that was raised, illustrating the financial problems that may be faced by parents).
- 19 I have experience with long range planning school board at St. Francis school. Our middle school has poor enrollment and is not utilized enough. Two problems have been identified; Instability of grades 6 and 7 teaching staff, and not having "middle school" atmosphere, too much like elementary.
- 20 My personal feeling about Catholic schools is the values, morals and examples for children have come from the home. I don't feel the Catholic schools can replace what is the parent's responsibility. I have 18 nieces and nephews who all attended Catholic schools at least through 8th grade. Fifteen of the eighteen have left the Catholic church. Regarding my own three children, our son never attended Catholic school. He married a beautiful Catholic woman and is devout practicing Catholic. We have a daughter who is developmentally handicapped. The Catholic school could not educate her, as they were not equipped to handle a difficult child. Our youngest daughter attended 6 years of Catholic school. She married outside the church and is not a devout Lutheran and works with children within her church. Hopefully this will clarify my attitude about Catholic schools.
- 21 Since we no longer have school age children I don't tend to have a strong opinion on this subject on way or the other. It would be nice for those families involved to have the option of a Catholic middle or high school but we can also see the other side of the issue since we have been public school teachers all of our lives.

4 Pine City Region

4. The Pine City Region (see Table 5):

Table 4 provides statistical data on responses by Pine City Region respondents. There were sufficient responses only from two groups for this region: the random sample of parishioners and from current parents of children in Catholic elementary schools. Figures 5a-5c list comments that were provided on selected items in the questionnaire.

There is a striking difference in the view of parishioners and parents over the need for a Catholic middle and/or high school. Thirty-eight percent of parishioners saw no need for these schools as compared to 12% among parents. Fifty-four percent of parents and 20% of parishioners saw a need for both levels of school.

Among those who saw some need for one or both of these schools in their region, most favored the middle school model (74% of parishioners and 67% of parents). Somewhat more than half this percentage favored the high school model. Over half of parents and a third of parishioners preferred some other type of model. Their comments are provided in Figure 5a, below. Over 75% of each group felt that the choice between new construction and remodeling existing buildings should be based on the one that is most cost-effective (see Table 5, line 3).

The type of program receiving the most support was computer technology skills with 89% of parishioners and 95% of parents choosing this option. For parents, science labs, music and college preparation programs received over 80% support. Among parishioners only music received over 80% support (see Table 5, line 4). Among the least supported programs were extra curricular activities (36% among parishioners and 57% among parents), sports (46% and 43% respectively), and work skills training (43% among parents but 64% among parishioners). Comments on other proposed programs are given in Figure 5b, below.

A majority of each group would support, in prayer or financially, a school if one were established in their region. Support was much less among parishioners, however (56% compared to 88% for parents). A third of parishioners and nearly all of parents indicated they had children living at home (see line 6, Table 5). The grade level distribution of these children is shown in line 7.

Over half of parishioners with children at home said their children were very unlikely to attend a Catholic middle and/or high school if one were available (53%). On the other hand, 54% of parents gave the opposite response, that their children are very likely to attend such a school.

Among those with children living at home, virtually none would be willing to send their children 20 or more miles one way to attend a Catholic middle or high school (see Table 5, line 9). The higher percentages (36% to 39%) evenly split between permitting a 5-9 mile trip and a 10-19 mile trip. Only about 5% were willing to send a child to a Catholic middle and/or high school if one were available in the nearby region of Duluth (Table 5, line 10).

Eighty-eight percent of parishioners and 84% of parents said they could not afford or would have considerable difficulty affording a \$4,500 to \$5,500 tuition. Six percent of parishioners and 16% of parents said they definitely could handle this level of tuition.

As in other regions, most respondents are currently married (73% of parishioners and 100% of parents). Most respondents were female (71% and 88%) and most were themselves Catholic (98% of parishioners and 88% of parents). Most also had a spouse who was Catholic (90% for parishioners and 88% for parents). Nearly half (45%) of parishioners had at least some college education and 66% of parents had this level of education. The average age was 60 years for the random sample of parishioners and 40 years for parents who responded to the questionnaire. Parents had lived in their community for 17 years on average and 32 years for the sample of parishioners. Table 5, line 7 provides the percent distribution of grade level for children of parishioners and for parents of children currently in Catholic elementary school.

Sixteen percent of parents and 21% of parishioners wrote added comments on the back of their questionnaires and these comments are listed in Figure 4c, below. Comments are generally organized from more positive to those with concerns to the more negative. More general comments are at the end of the list.

Table 5
Responses by Area Stakeholders to Questions about the Need for a Catholic Middle and/or High School, Pine City Region, 1999.

| Items | Member Sample ²⁵ | Parents ²⁶ |
|--|---|---|
| <p>1. In your judgment, is there a need for a Catholic middle school and/or a Catholic high school in the Pine City area?</p> <p>Yes, we need a Catholic middle school</p> <p>Yes, we need a Catholic high school</p> <p>Yes, we need both schools</p> <p>No current opinion</p> <p><i>No need for either school</i> (skip to #5)</p> <p>Totals</p> | <p>10%</p> <p>1</p> <p>20</p> <p>32</p> <p><u>38</u></p> <p>100%</p> <p>(130)</p> | <p>21%</p> <p>4</p> <p>54</p> <p>8</p> <p><u>12</u></p> <p>100%</p> <p>(24)</p> |
| <p>2. Which of the following models do you think the Diocese should pursue at this time?</p> <p><i>Model 1:</i> Middle school (grades 6-8) with location in this area, about 200 enrollment, 1/20 teacher student ratio, full academic and religious curriculum extra curricular programs, annual tuition \$4,500 to \$5,500 per person, opening in 1-5 years.</p> <p><i>Model 2:</i> High school (grades 9-12) with location in this area, about 200 enrollment, 1/20 teacher student ratio, full academic and religious curriculum, extra curricular programs annual tuition \$4,500 to \$5,500 per person, opening in 1-5 years.</p> <p><i>Other preferred model:</i></p> | <p>74% (53)</p> <p>42% (53)</p> <p>32% (54)</p> | <p>67% (21)</p> <p>38% (21)</p> <p>52% (21)</p> |
| <p>3. Should a Catholic middle school or Catholic high school be:</p> <p>New Construction</p> <p>A remodeled existing building if available</p> <p>New or existing building depending on which is <i>most cost-effective.</i></p> <p>Totals</p> | <p>9%</p> <p>13</p> <p><u>78</u></p> <p>100%</p> <p>(55)</p> | <p>10%</p> <p>5</p> <p>85</p> <p>100%</p> <p>(20)</p> |

²⁵ This group is a separate random sample from the general parish household list.

²⁶ Parents of Catholic elementary school. All were sent the questionnaire. Some parents may also be teachers and/or key leaders.

Table 5, Pine City, continued.

| Items | Member Sample | Parents |
|--|------------------|-----------------|
| <p>4. What key programs should a Catholic middle school and/or high school have, in addition to a strong Catholic identity?</p> <p>Sports 46% 43%</p> <p>Computer technology skills 89% 95%</p> <p>Science labs 69% 86%</p> <p>Music 82% 81%</p> <p>Drama 46% 57%</p> <p>Arts 44% 67%</p> <p>Literature 69% 76%</p> <p>World languages 67% 67%</p> <p>College prep 78% 81%</p> <p>Work skills training 64% 43%</p> <p>Extra curricular activities 36% 57%</p> <p>Other desired programs (please list) 9% 19%</p> <p>Base of each of the percentages (55) (21)</p> | | |
| <p>5. Would you be willing to support (in prayer and/or financially through your parish) a Catholic middle school or high school if the diocese decided that there was a need for such a school in your area?</p> <p>No 44% 12%</p> <p>Yes 56 88</p> <p>Totals 100% 100%</p> <p>(115) (24)</p> | | |
| <p>6. Percent who have children living at home.</p> | <p>31% (124)</p> | <p>96% (25)</p> |
| <p>7. Percent of children at home who are in each grade level</p> <p>1st grade 5% 18%</p> <p>2nd grade 11 6</p> <p>3rd grade 0 16</p> <p>4th grade 8 16</p> <p>5th grade 5 6</p> <p>6th grade 8 20</p> <p>7th grade 8 0</p> <p>8th grade 19 8</p> <p>9th grade 0 0</p> <p>10th grade 11 6</p> <p>11th grade 11 4</p> <p>12th grade 11 2</p> <p>Totals 100% 100%</p> <p>(37) (51)</p> | | |

Table 5, Pine City, continued.

| Items | Member Sample | Parents |
|---|--|--|
| <p>8. How likely is it that one or more of your children would attend a Catholic middle school or Catholic high school if one were available?</p> <p>Very unlikely to attend</p> <p>2</p> <p>3</p> <p>4</p> <p>Very likely to attend</p> <p>Totals</p> | <p>53%</p> <p>16</p> <p>10</p> <p>10</p> <p>10</p> <p>100%</p> <p>(38)</p> | <p>8%</p> <p>12</p> <p>4</p> <p>21</p> <p>54</p> <p>100%</p> <p>(24)</p> |
| <p>9. How far would you be willing to have your child travel (by car or bus) to attend a Catholic middle school or Catholic high school if one were available?</p> <p>Up to 4 miles one way</p> <p>5 to 9 miles one way</p> <p>10 to 19 miles one way</p> <p>20 or more miles one way</p> <p>Totals</p> | <p>25%</p> <p>39</p> <p>36</p> <p>0</p> <p>100%</p> <p>(28)</p> | <p>17%</p> <p>38</p> <p>38</p> <p>8</p> <p>100%</p> <p>(24)</p> |
| <p>10. Would you be willing to send your children to a Catholic middle and/or high school if one were available in Duluth?</p> <p>No</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Totals</p> | <p>95%</p> <p>5</p> <p>100%</p> <p>(38)</p> | <p>96%</p> <p>4</p> <p>100%</p> <p>(25)</p> |
| <p>11. Tuition projections suggest that the yearly cost would be about \$4,500. To \$5,500 per pupil per year. How difficult would it be for your family to afford this level of tuition?</p> <p><i>Could not afford</i></p> <p><i>Would have considerable difficulty</i></p> <p>Probably could afford</p> <p>Definitely could afford</p> <p>Totals</p> | <p>61%</p> <p>27</p> <p>6</p> <p>6</p> <p>100%</p> <p>(33)</p> | <p>36%</p> <p>48</p> <p>16</p> <p>0</p> <p>100%</p> <p>(25)</p> |
| <p>12. Marital status</p> <p><i>Currently married</i></p> <p>Single, never married</p> <p>Widow/widower</p> <p>Separated or divorced</p> <p>Other</p> <p>Totals</p> | <p>73%</p> <p>6</p> <p>17</p> <p>4</p> <p>0</p> <p>100%</p> <p>(135)</p> | <p>100%</p> <p>0</p> <p>0</p> <p>0</p> <p>0</p> <p>100%</p> <p>(25)</p> |
| <p>27. Average age of respondent</p> | <p>59.6</p> | <p>39.7</p> |

Table 5, Pine City, continued.

| Items | Member Sample | Parents |
|--|---|--|
| 28. Respondent's gender Male Female Totals | 29% <u>71</u> 100% (130) | 12% <u>88</u> 100% (25) |
| 29. Average years in this community | 32.3 | 16.7 |
| 30. Respondent's religious affiliation (percent Catholic) | 98% (124) | 88% (25) |
| 31. Spouse's religious affiliation (percent Catholic) | 90% (97) | 88% (24) |
| 32. Respondent's education Grade school or less Some high school High school graduate Some vocational school Vocational school graduate Some college College graduate Some post graduate college Post graduate or professional degree Totals | 8% 5 <u>31</u> 4 8 13 10 6 <u>16</u> 100% (144) | 0% 0 8 8 19 19 <u>35</u> 0 <u>12</u> 100% (26) |
| 33. Made comments on back of questionnaire (shown in the appendix) | 21% (144) | 16% (25) |

Figure 5a: Comments on Selected Models by Pine City Region Respondents

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Why PC? | Make investment | Combined 7-12 |
| Too costly | Lower tuition | Combined |
| This does not apply to us | K-12 | Both |
| Supports schools in diocese | it will take 10-20 years | Both |
| Not enough students | if community can support it | Both |
| No need | Home school programs | Both |
| No children | Grade school | 8-12 |
| Model 1 but lower tuition | Faith school | 7 |
| Middle school | Depends of location | 40 |
| Middle school | Cost a factor | 30 miles radius |

Figure 5b: Comments on Proposed Programs by Pine City Region Respondents

Values
Stress
Other programs noted
Morals
Math
Manners, respect
Financial manage
Creation science
Catholic history

Figure 5c: General Comments at End of Questionnaire – Pine City

- 1 This world would be in much better shape if God were the center of our children's education. To teach our children of love and kindness just as Christ taught. Maybe the family unit wouldn't be falling apart and children wandering around lost with nowhere to turn because they don't know Him! Thanks I will pray for more Catholic schools.
- 2 We would love to help with such a situation. Financially difficult but otherwise blessed and talented. We have kept our little Catholic school (elementary) going successfully and recently added a kindergarten, we are proud! We would hope we could keep the cost down, so as not to be cost prohibiting to families with more than one or two children.
- 3 If the Doctrines of the Catholic faith were taught instead of Christian love then I would consider support.
- 4 I think we could, in the Pine City area have a high school. We are a centrally located little city that loved take enrollment from Rush City and the eastern part of St. Cloud. As you know Pine City is a poor area, but drawing from the neighboring areas would probably fill the enrollment. I also think students of other faiths would be situated, but tuition would be a factor, having had children and now grand children I think the tuition is reasonable.
- 5 I really don't believe enough families would avail themselves if such an opportunity (sending their kids to a Catholic school) either because they are not willing to, or unable to, afford the tuition. I think too much of the cash would fall back to the parish(s). I do feel strongly that there is a great need for religious education and perhaps more money could be spent on CCD programs. Religious education has to begin and continue at home so maybe adults and families programs would be beneficial. However, I do not have any suggestions for how this could be done.
- 6 I answered this for the future. I see a need in 15-20 years for Catholic schools. I also based this on the metro area where it is new development churches and schools are being built. As the metro area moves out Pine City area could have much development also has it even occurred to have the diocese join at work with St. Cloud diocese? Then the cost wouldn't be that much more.
- 7 K-12 are always desirable if affordable (I don't agree with middle school because of discipline problems encountered when the 9th graders and the seniors of the school.) An area Catholic school would be a very desirable but wouldn't appear to be financially feasible to the written.
- 8 We are concerned about the future of public education due to current curriculum programs such as grad standards and profiles of learning. We do not necessarily think these changes will benefit our children or other children. We want to protect our children's ability to receive a decent, moral education and a true Catholic education on faith as well.
- 9 We have lived in Sturgeon Lake for 12 years we are retired. All of our other years we lived in Duluth, our children attended Catholic schools I don't know how much financial support we could give, but I do believe there is always a need for Catholic schools.
- 10 The people of this area are not wealthy. They have to work hard to send their children to the grade school here. Our Catholic school is only to the sixth grade. With all the necessary equipment to provide a good middle school the cost would be tremendous. The people just could not afford it. Pine County is a distressed area, for most of them a Catholic college is a dream. Both parents are working to make ends meet in the younger generation and in turn the older generation are tapping their savings and trying to live on their social security. We have no large companies to give us grants so the situation is hardly accessible for a middle or high Catholic school.

Figure 5c, Pine City, continued.

- 11 If our family were younger we would consider this much more seriously. The struggle to fund-raise is a heavy burden and pressure on young families. Perhaps Catholic education should be fully funded by the diocese since our futures and the future of our Catholic faith depends on today's youth. The church should be celebrating youth and become more involved in their lives.
- 12 With the average income of families in this area not being real high and the cost of construction, maintenance and tuition, families just cannot afford it. If they think they can draw from surrounding areas, I have talked to families with school age children. They would like to send their children to Catholic schools, but with both parents working in most families, the problem of transportation and long distance to travel becomes a major problem.
- 13 Very concerned about those tuition projections. We could never afford that! Our area is expanding, overcrowding at the high school and now would be a great time to offer this choice.
- 14 I have grandchildren and great grand children that could attend but the tuition may be a problem.
- 15 I am not against a Catholic school, but since I have no children in school and I am not financially able to support a new school, I really feel I have no right to comment.
- 16 As (at) private schools the cost of tuition is the issue.
- 17 Public schools are not conducive to learning due to amount of children sent from other communities due to disciplinary problems. Public schools have become like prisons with camera surveillance and hall monitors This is not a healthy environment for children to learn.
- 18 There is a huge federal prison that is being planned for the Rush City area. This could greatly affect the need for schools in the Pine City area. The trend in our area is more and more parents are home schooling. A Catholic school may be the answer to their prayers.
- 19 I believe that a higher quality of education is obtained in a Catholic school. I feel that the public schools are becoming scattered with children who are disciplining problems from other communities, which increases description in the school setting. Public schools have become not unlike prisons with cameras and hall monitors, I don't think this atmosphere is a healthy environment for children.
- 20 I would rather see nuns teaching the children religion instructions in our parishes and more support for nuns.
- 21 We are now respectively 85 and 83 years old. We raised five children and now have 4 of them with families, thus 12 grandchildren. We wish we could have had Catholic school education for them, we have 4 grandchildren who have had Catholic school education only in the grades and as a whole we can readily see the difference in the attitudes and accomplishment in their lives as they live today.
- 22 There is a need in this area for a more and better religious education. I do not feel that a middle or high school is necessary, tuition would be more than most people could afford. My children attended school at St. Mary's in Pine City and their religious knowledge is inadequate compared to mine when I went to catechism as a child. More was expected of us at that time.
- 23 Good solid religious education programs for youth are needed much more than a school. We don't have them in Pine City because all the money goes to support the school.

Figure 5c, Pine City, continued.

- 24 I am the product of a Catholic education through grade twelve. Our children were educated in Catholic school through grade six and went to Catholic colleges. In retrospect I feel it is important to ground students in Catholic education from grades 1 thru 12. This is the time that parents need help from the schools to reinforce their Catholic beliefs in respect of educating their children. It seems to me that kids need to be surrounded by Catholic teaching during those years when they are so susceptible to new ideas and peer pressure. Well-grounded kids can make it through college wherever they go. Unfortunately, the cost of tuition looks so high that I am not sure the people of this area would be able to afford the cost of Catholic education. It is the ideal but I don't know if it is feasible.
- 25 All the families I have spoken with and the children want a middle and high school open. Preferably before they would have to enter the public school at the 7th grade level. We as parents are very concerned about our kids in the public school system. We want our kids with families that have the same values and faith. It brings us closer together. We all feel like one huge family in Christ! Many of us would also like to see nuns teaching again, and visits from nun in habit on a regular basis or even in our parish. We love Sister X.
- 26 We have enough right now, just trying to make it with the Catholic school we have. We don't need anymore burden than already has been placed on this church.
- 27 Why would you even contemplate H.S. in Pine City area when we are barely supporting an elementary? I know of many of the graduates of St. Mary due to them being in the same grades as my children and feel often they are the ones with the more negative behaviors. I don't believe parochial schools can claim to have a greater success as obviously any parent that is willing to spend an additional dollars for school will be involved in schoolwork and behavior issues which unfortunately is not the case at public schools. I attended St. Mary myself and feel it was run with little concern for all students, the nuns were sadistic and down right nasty, bitter women, who should not have been allowed to have day to day contact with students of whom they never or seldom showed true compassion or concern.
- 28 We live 30 miles from Pine City and (there are) very few Catholics families. There is no transportation either. I don't know of anyone from here who has ever taken their children to the Catholic school there.
- 29 I feel more support for Catholic home schooling parents is needed. We have a daughter with 6 children who would love to send them to Catholic schools, but it's out of the question at \$27,000 a year for 12 years that's \$324,000 before all have gone through school. Why can't they receive help with the books?
- 30 I don't think there are enough children to have a Catholic school around here.

5 International Falls Region

5. The International Falls Region (see Table 6):

Table 6 includes data from the questionnaire for two groups in the International Falls region of the Diocese: the random sample of parishioners and parents of children currently enrolled in a Catholic elementary school. Figures 6a-6c list open-ended comments made by these respondents concerning the proposed model and school programs as well as general comments added to the end of their questionnaire.

As shown in line 1 of Table 6, 33% of parents say there is a need for a middle school alone, 20% see a need for a high school alone, and 26% see a need for both a Catholic middle and high school. Comparable percentages for the parishioner sample are 9%, 6% and 10%, respectively. Forty-two percent of parishioners see no need for either type of school (compared to 16% of parents).

When asked about the model of school they preferred, half or more (64% of parishioners and 50% of parents), opted for the middle school model. Slightly less than half checked the high school model and a fifth to a third indicated another preferred model. Comments about other preferred models are given in Figure 1a, below.

Approximately three quarters felt that the selection between a new building and remodeling an existing building should be made on cost-effective grounds (see Table 6, line 3).

The most preferred program for the schools was computer technology skills with 96% of parishioners and all of the parents indicating this option. Over 90% of parents also preferred science labs and music programs. Science labs were the second most preferred programs for parishioners. Ranking least on the parishioner list was sports (45%) and drama (49%). Least preferred by parents was work skills training (54%), sports (57%), and extra curricular activities (59%). Figure 6b provides comments on other programs those respondents from the International Falls region noted.

All current parents and 31% of the parishioners indicated they had children living at home. Line 7 in Table 6 shows the distribution of grade level of these children. Over half (55%) of parents said their children were very likely to attend a Catholic middle and/or high school if one were available (versus 20% of parishioners). This is compared to 38% of parishioners with children who said their children are very unlikely to attend such schools (19% for parents).

The highest percentage of parents (44%) would be willing to have their child travel 10-19 miles one way to a Catholic middle or high school compared to 28% for parishioners who, instead, preferred to have their child travel less than 5 miles to school. Few would be willing to send their children to a Catholic school in Grand Rapids (10% for parishioners and 2% for parents). See Table 6, line 10 for these data.

Over half of both parishioners and parents said they could not afford the proposed \$4,500 to \$5,500 tuition. Overall 84% of parishioners would have considerable difficulty or could not afford this level of tuition. The comparable figure for parents was 81%. Table 6, line 7 provides percentage distributions of grade level of children of respondents in the two groups, parents and parishioners.

Most respondents were married (73% of parishioners and 85% of parents). Most respondents from the International Falls area were women (67% for parishioners and 77% for parents). Most were Catholic (99% of parishioners and 84% of parents) and most spouses were also Catholic (80% of parishioners and 64% of parents). The sample was relatively highly educated (see line 39 in Table 6) with 62% of parishioners and 84% of parents having at least some college education. The average age of parishioners who responded is 57 years and 39 years for parents. Both have lived in their communities for substantial times, 38 years for responding parishioners and 22 years for parents.

A fifth to a quarter of the International Falls respondents wrote added comments on the back of their questionnaires and these comments are listed in Figure 6c, below. Comments are generally organized from more positive to those with concerns to the more negative. More general comments are at the end of the list.

Table 6
Responses by Area Stakeholders to Questions about the Need for a Catholic Middle and/or High School, International Falls Region, 1999.

| Items | Member Sample ²⁷ | Parents ²⁸ |
|---|---|---|
| 1. In your judgment, is there a need for a Catholic middle school and/or a Catholic high school in the International Falls area? Yes, we need a Catholic middle school Yes, we need a Catholic high school Yes, we need both schools No current opinion No need for either school (skip to #5) Totals | 9% 6 10 33 <u>42</u> 100% (144) | 33% 20 26 6 <u>16</u> 100% (51) |
| 2. Which of the following models do you think the Diocese should pursue at this time? <i>Model 1:</i> Middle school (grades 6-8) with location in this area, about 200 enrollment, 1/20 teacher student ratio, full academic and religious curriculum extra curricular programs, annual tuition \$4,500 to \$5,500 per person, opening in 1-5 years. <i>Model 2:</i> High school (grades 9-12) with location in this area, about 200 enrollment, 1/20 teacher student ratio, full academic and religious curriculum, extra curricular programs annual tuition \$4,500 to \$5,500 per person, opening in 1-5 years. <i>Other preferred model:</i> | 64% (58) 47% (58) 22% (58) | 50% (42) 48% (42) 34% (44) |
| 3. Should a Catholic middle school or Catholic high school be: New Construction A remodeled existing building if available New or existing building depending on which is most cost-effective. Totals | 3% 26 <u>71</u> 100% (65) | 5% 20 <u>76</u> 100% (41) |

²⁷ This group is a separate random sample from the general parish household list.

²⁸ Parents of Catholic elementary school. All were sent the questionnaire. Some parents may also be teachers and/or key leaders.

Table 6, International Falls, continued.

| Items | Member Sample | Parents |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| <p>4. What key programs should a Catholic middle school and/or high school have, in addition to a strong Catholic identity?</p> <p>Sports 45% 57%</p> <p>Computer technology skills 96% 100%</p> <p>Science labs 88% 91%</p> <p>Music 78% 93%</p> <p>Drama 49% 57%</p> <p>Arts 55% 70%</p> <p>Literature 72% 70%</p> <p>World languages 61% 75%</p> <p>College prep 72% 66%</p> <p>Work skills training 56% 54%</p> <p>Extra curricular activities 51% 59%</p> <p>Other desired programs (please list) 1% 4%</p> <p>Base of each of the percentages (69) (44)</p> | | |
| <p>5. Would you be willing to support (in prayer and/or financially through your parish) a Catholic middle school or high school if the diocese decided that there was a need for such a school in your area?</p> <p>No 52% 19%</p> <p>Yes 48 81</p> <p>Totals 100% 100%</p> <p>(123) (53)</p> | | |
| <p>6. Percent who have children living at home.</p> | <p>31% (144)</p> | <p>100% (53)</p> |
| <p>7. Percent of children at home who are in each grade level</p> <p>1st grade 7% 19%</p> <p>2nd grade 6 8</p> <p>3rd grade 9 12</p> <p>4th grade 13 11</p> <p>5th grade 4 8</p> <p>6th grade 11 8</p> <p>7th grade 14 7</p> <p>8th grade 6 3</p> <p>9th grade 6 8</p> <p>10th grade 9 5</p> <p>11th grade 7 4</p> <p>12th grade 9 5</p> <p>Totals 100% 100%</p> <p>(55) (97)</p> | | |

Table 6, International Falls, continued.

| Items | Member Sample | Parents |
|---|---|--|
| <p>8. How likely is it that one or more of your children would attend a Catholic middle school or Catholic high school if one were available?</p> <p>Very unlikely to attend</p> <p>2</p> <p>3</p> <p>4</p> <p>Very likely to attend</p> <p>Totals</p> | <p>38%</p> <p>9</p> <p>20</p> <p>13</p> <p><u>20</u></p> <p>100%</p> <p>(45)</p> | <p>19%</p> <p>6</p> <p>4</p> <p>17</p> <p><u>55</u></p> <p>100%</p> <p>(53)</p> |
| <p>9. How far would you be willing to have your child travel (by car or bus) to attend a Catholic middle school or Catholic high school if one were available?</p> <p>Up to 4 miles one way</p> <p>5 to 9 miles one way</p> <p>10 to 19 miles one way</p> <p>20 or more miles one way</p> <p>Totals</p> | <p>39%</p> <p>22</p> <p>28</p> <p><u>11</u></p> <p>100%</p> <p>(36)</p> | <p>14%</p> <p>30</p> <p>44</p> <p><u>12</u></p> <p>100%</p> <p>(50)</p> |
| <p>10. Would you be willing to send your children to a Catholic middle and/or high school if one were available in Grand Rapids?</p> <p>No</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Totals</p> | <p>90%</p> <p><u>10</u></p> <p>100%</p> <p>(42)</p> | <p>98%</p> <p><u>2</u></p> <p>100%</p> <p>(41)</p> |
| <p>11. Tuition projections suggest that the yearly cost would be about \$4,500. To \$5,500 per pupil per year. How difficult would it be for your family to afford this level of tuition?</p> <p>Could not afford</p> <p>Would have considerable difficulty</p> <p>Probably could afford</p> <p>Definitely could afford</p> <p>Totals</p> | <p>54%</p> <p>30</p> <p>16</p> <p><u>0</u></p> <p>100%</p> <p>(44)</p> | <p>55%</p> <p>26</p> <p>17</p> <p><u>2</u></p> <p>100%</p> <p>(53)</p> |
| <p>13. Marital status</p> <p>Currently married</p> <p>Single, never married</p> <p>Widow/widower</p> <p>Separated or divorced</p> <p>Other</p> <p>Totals</p> | <p>73%</p> <p>5</p> <p>14</p> <p>7</p> <p><u>1</u></p> <p>100%</p> <p>(150)</p> | <p>85%</p> <p>2</p> <p>4</p> <p>9</p> <p><u>0</u></p> <p>100%</p> <p>(53)</p> |
| <p>34. Average age of respondent</p> | <p>56.9</p> | <p>39.0</p> |

Table 6, International Falls, continued.

| Items | Member Sample | Parents |
|--|---|---|
| 35. Respondent's gender Male Female Totals | 33% <u>67</u> 100% (149) | 23% <u>77</u> 100% (53) |
| 36. Average years in this community | 38.4 | 21.6 |
| 37. Respondent's religious affiliation (percent Catholic) | 99% (148) | 84% (51) |
| 38. Spouse's religious affiliation (percent Catholic) | 80% (109) | 64% (44) |
| 39. Respondent's education Grade school or less Some high school High school graduate Some vocational school Vocational school graduate Some college College graduate Some post graduate college Post graduate or professional degree Totals | 1% 4 21 6 6 <u>26</u> 20 5 <u>11</u> 100% (161) | 0% 0 8 0 9 <u>40</u> 23 8 <u>13</u> 100% (53) |
| 40. Made comments on back of questionnaire (shown in the appendix) | 20% (161) | 24% (53) |

Figure 6a: Comments on Selected Models by International Falls Region Respondents

| | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Where would schools be? | Not financially feasible | Combine #1 and #2 |
| Where is funding from? | Not familiar with it | Can not afford |
| Uninformed | Need orthodox priest first | Better support for St Thomas |
| Uniforms good idea | Model 1 most logical | Already have MS-tuition too high |
| Uniforms | Lower tuition & enrollment | |
| Unaffordable | Kabetogama/ORR area | |
| Tuition extremely high | High tuition | |
| Too much money | Have support for it | |
| Too high tuition | Expand or add on | |
| Scholarship | Elementary only | |
| Not large enough town | Don't know | |

Figure 6b: Comments on Proposed Programs by International Falls Region Respondents

Math, social studies
Health

Figure 6c: General Comments at Back of Questionnaire – International Falls

| | |
|----|---|
| 1 | Since I am a teacher, I would be willing to sub or be hired to help offset the costs of tuition. I think the Catholic school setting far exceeds that of this community's public system. However, the thought of spending \$15,000 a year in tuition is a bit daunting. |
| 2 | Even a small high school run as a "home schooling" type of thing would be much better than our high school. It's so hard for our kids to keep "straight" with the peer influence and pressures to drink and do drugs with no mention of God and His 10 commandments. |
| 3 | In this would today I worry very much about the way our public schools are failing to teach and guide our young children. I am not looking forward to sending my girls to public school ever. St Thomas has everything I could hope for when it comes to such issues as teacher to student ratios, caring for each student as an individual, and school/parent communication. My girls love their school and if I could somehow manage the high cost of tuition for grades 9-12 I would! At the moment it seems so overwhelming. However God decides to bless us is the one thing my children have learned well at St Thomas. Their years well spent in Catholic schools will help them not only in their future but right now. St Thomas has helped build their character, faith and love for family values. We are truly blessed. |
| 4 | Our school (St Thomas) has a wonderful junior high program (grades 7-8). It is the only alternative we have in International Falls besides public high school. My husband and I don't see that as an option. While a Catholic high school would be great, I don't believe we have the numbers (students) to support it. |
| 5 | We are quite removed from the International Falls area so are not really cognizant of the needs there. However, we do support a Catholic education anywhere. |
| 6 | A male person years ago was very surprised we did not have a Catholic school in Ely for the size of the area! The person was from Montana, visiting our area. We did not know there was a Catholic school in our area. Schools were in 1916-1917 there is much need. What we were once taught. |
| 7 | Our public schools are struggling. St. Thomas Aquinas school has a reputation for academic rigor and excellence. You need to get a qualified principal and go with the upper grades. People will put their students in for academic and moral reasons. Thank you for the survey. |
| 8 | International Falls is so far out of the man stream; surely there are other cities in closer proximity, where enrollment would be sufficient. More suitable would be a community centrally located which would be, perhaps, a half hour ride (15-20 miles) either direction. |
| 9 | Our high school in International Falls is small and doesn't have a lot of problems seen in bigger cities. I'm not being blind to problems but I think in a smaller community it is easier to control. I feel the Diocese of Duluth should invest financially into the many grade schools within the area. Lets make our Catholic grade schools better than ever! Next, implement a youth program with a youth minister in each parish and keep the excitement alive in those young people. I think this would benefit everyone involved at a lot less cost. One of the major challenges our Diocese should take on is paying our Catholic teachers a wage comparable to public schools. They deserve this and it is only Christian to work to this end. |
| 10 | I believe any school (including the current one) should be self-supporting. |
| 11 | We need a priest who is a pastor. One who will be honest with people. |
| 12 | (We) do not have an interest pro or con, for a parochial school in International Falls. We are 70 and 65 years of age, have no children or grandchildren living with us. This survey does not include us. Sorry. We would not object if our Diocese was in favor. |
| 13 | I have no facts whatsoever about the Falls school situation so, therefore, I don't have an opinion. |
| 14 | I believe the government – state, federal – should support all forms of education. Open enrollment should support non-traditional tax credits for all types of education including Catholic, Baptist, home schooling, separation of church/state should not lack "credit" for Catholic education. Teachers, parents and students need better support for choosing non-traditional education. This is true freedom. |
| 15 | The \$18,000 to \$22,000 that it would cost for my child to attend a Catholic high school could be used for her college education. |

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Figure 6c, International Falls, continued.

| | |
|----|--|
| 16 | (I) will not financially support the “talked about” changes to St Thomas church. Schools should be improved and subsidized by we members of the parish. Thank you. |
| 17 | I don't think there are enough children to have a Catholic school around here. |
| 18 | I do not think a school is necessary either middle or high. We do not have the money in this community to support one. This town is just no large enough. |
| 19 | How can another Catholic school be supported? Our St. Thomas Catholic school has struggled and continues to struggle. Why do you think we allow gambling in our parish? We wonder if it is even truly Catholic anymore. (Attend a school mass unexpectedly). Check up on how our faith is being taught and how Catholic the teachers are; or even whether they are Catholic. What has happened to the policy that only Catholic teachers may be hired. We have many questions. Faith was to be integrated into every subject. An endowment fund was established to ensure our Catholic school would continue. The interest was not to be used until the fund had reached a certain level. We understand the interest is being removed regularly, as needed! We are not happy about any of this. |
| 20 | The faith school district does not need any more competition. If the Catholic school would come in I believe it would be a drain on all local parishes and the public schools. |
| 21 | I found the survey a little confusing since our children attend St. Thomas, which currently runs through 8 th grade (which I consider a middle school). We support our school at St Thomas. It is badly in need of additional funding. I don't think it's necessary to build another school however. We need to support and improve on our current school. |
| 22 | Bishop Schweitz: I have no earthly idea why you now feel the necessity to survey the Falls about a middle and high school. You don't care to listen to parishioners about the church, so what difference does it make? We seriously doubt you even care what happens up here. XXX has told us that you have approved a \$3-\$5 million renovation of our church which has a declining population of mostly elderly who cannot and will not support it. Many have written to you pleading to listed and you answer not. XXX claims you actually support the destruction of this historical building, not to mention that the proposed plan of changing the inside 180 degrees will desecrate the shape of the cross in which the building was built and put Jesus on His head. This isn't Catholic, Bishop, its satanic! We have all agreed it needs work and cleanup and bringing up to date but it MUST be kept Catholic. Why won't you listen? It is totally materialistic to need another “gathering space” at such expense. Pretty soon there won't be many left to “gather”. And the need to connect all buildings for the convenience of not having to go outdoors to go between buildings—this is slothful! And what ever happened to picking up the cross to follow Him? Did Jesus live in the lap of luxury at the expense of his followers? Evidently you think we need to pay for the convenience a minority needs. You see, Bishop, we have 460 names on a petition of parishioners who are NOT, and I repeat, NOT going to support this financially or otherwise. Maybe, as well as picking up our UCS tab you'd like the Diocese to cover this renovation also? I thought the church was God's house – well, they tried to put His tabernacle into a small closet at the back of the congregation, but settled for pushing it way back behind arches where nobody can see Him – in his own house!! Is that just plain good enough for Him??? Well, Bishop Schweitz, it appears you are NOT interested in our parishioners or in God's house up here, but simply in the glory of human applause at our expense. So why would we need a Catholic middle or high school? We'll keep you in our prayers. |
| 23 | International Falls at this time is mostly retired people living on Social Security. I raised five children and sent them to college but there are no jobs here so they all moved away. Most people here are like me. The children move away after graduation because of the job situation. People that do have jobs at Boise Mill could not afford the tuition. |
| 24 | This area is barely supporting a catholic grade school (K-8). We have 6 6 th grade students and 3 8 th graders. I strongly believe that there will not be enough support for a middle or high school. Why can't some of that money be used to support the grade school that desperately needs it. The water fountains had to be donated and the bathrooms need updating. The staff is very under paid and teachers are allowed just \$75 for supplies!!! |
| 25 | At this time I feel there is no need for a Catholic middle school or high school. Our school is K through 8 th . My 5 children attended our catholic school and continued on through our public schools. I have been satisfied with their education here. |

Figure 6c, International Falls, continued

| | |
|----|--|
| 26 | Our church is old and in need of repair. The Catholic school is in poor condition and I can't see how our parish can afford to build a new school. I would rather have a nice church and good religious education programs first. Who can afford \$4,500-\$5,500 a year for tuition! It would be nice to have a new school but realistically our parish couldn't financially support it. |
| 27 | I am on the school board/finance committee. As a board we have not discussed the vision of the school down the road – whether junior or senior high. Since we have through 8 th grade now, we would like to keep it. This is when the kids need it most. Because of some previous enrollment problems our 6-8 th grades are quite small. However, if we maintain the lower grade numbers 15-20 per class this is a good size. My biggest concern is the present school budget and being able to maintain current operating costs and improving teacher's salaries (currently at 50% of public school district 361). Policy is to strive for 80%. The infrastructure is failing. Fund raising is down 50% over 3 years. Parents seem unwilling to pay for their children's education, which, at current levels, is about \$2,500 per student. As salaries, etc. increase, that cost will go up. We are at \$1,000. which is less than 50% of cost yet parents complain and don't support fund raising efforts. It seems we need vision and goals. Set deadlines for obtaining goals and if they can't be achieved then face the consequences. The other issue facing us will be church remodeling and a public school bond issue with higher taxes. While I would support this effort, I question its practical application here. |
| 28 | With such turmoil in our public schools these days, I would love to have my 2 children attend Catholic schools through grade 12. But I fear this small community could not financially afford to pay the suggested tuition needed to run a new middle/high school. As an active member of St Thomas Parish and St Thomas School Council, we are seeing families struggle to pay \$1000 per child and fund raising has declined over recent years. Unless a substantial subsidy would be available to fund this endeavor, I do not feel this would be feasible. At this time we are struggling to keep our existing Catholic school open. Pray for us! |
| 29 | I really have no idea whether there is a need or would be support enough for a Catholic high/middle school. I think I would lean in the direction of supporting public education, especially in Iron Range communities where so much consolidation has already occurred and communities have lost their own schools. Further dividing the community or separating students out still further I don't see as a positive thing for the community. |

6 Grand Rapids Region

6. The Grand Rapids Region (see Table 7):

Data for the Grand Rapids region is presented in Table 7, below. It contains a breakdown by the random sample of parishioners, teachers and key leaders. There were too few responses by parents to provide reliable statistics. Comments by all Grand Rapids region respondents about selected school models, school programs and end-of-questionnaire statements are provided in Figures 7a-7c, below.

Parishioners were more likely to feel that there was no need for either a middle or high school (28%) as compared to teachers (18%) or key leaders (21%). All three groups endorsed a middle school or both types of schools, but not a high school alone and teachers were more in favor of a middle school or both than the other two groups. Both parishioners and key leaders expressed no current opinion (27% and 29% respectively). These data are shown in Table 7, line 1.

The middle school model received substantial support from all three groups (76% for parishioners, 71% for key leaders and 93% for teachers). The high school model received only about 30% support from all groups and from 20% to 29% expressed a preference for some other model of school for their region. Comments about the preferred model are listed in Figure 7a, below.

While there was substantial support among teachers for new construction rather than remodeled facilities (29% vs. 0%), most (71% to 79%) favored the most cost-effective approach (see Line 3, Table 7).

Highest support for listed school programs was for computer technology skills (89% for parishioners, 100% for teachers, and 93% for key leaders). Parishioners endorsed science labs at about the same level (88%). Ninety-three percent of key leaders also supported science labs in any proposed school. Among teachers, music also received 100% support, and science labs, arts and literature each received 93% support. Programs with the least support were extra curricular activities and drama for parishioners (53% and 55% respectively). The lowest endorsement from teachers was for sports (71%). Drama (43%), literature (57%) and extra curricular activities (57%) were least supported among key leaders. Comments by Grand Rapids respondents concerning school programs are shown in Figure 7b, below.

For groups for which there is sufficient data, a majority would be willing to support a school project in prayer or financially (58% for parishioners and 64% for key leaders), although a healthy 36% and 42% said they would not give such support. Half of the teachers felt that people in the parish would support the establishment of a Catholic middle and/or high school.

Among parishioners, 55% had children living at home and 20% of key leaders had children at home as well (Table 7, line 7). The grade distribution of their children is shown on line 8 of Table 7. About a third of parishioners with children at home indicated that their children are very likely to attend a Catholic middle and/or high school if one were available and about a third indicated their children were very unlikely to attend. Teachers estimated that 88% of parish parents would like to have their children attend a Catholic middle and/or high school.

Parishioners were most willing to have their children travel 10-19 miles one way to attend a Catholic middle and/or high school and about a third (32%) were willing to have a 5-9 mile trip. Only 13% were willing to have a trip of 20 miles or more.

Tuition concerns appear to be a significant problem for this region as well. Forty-four percent of parishioners indicated that they could not afford the \$4,500 to \$5,500 tuition and another 32% felt they would have considerable difficulty handling this level of tuition. Only 7% felt they could definitely afford this tuition. Teachers estimated that 31% could not afford this tuition and 69% would have considerable difficulty doing so (see Table 7, line 11). The percent distribution of grade level of children of responding Grand Rapids parishioners is shown on line 8 of Table 7.

Most parishioners and key leaders were currently married (82% and 79%). Most respondents were women (70% for parishioners and 62% for key leaders). Nearly all parishioners and key leaders were themselves Catholic (98% and 100%), and most spouses were Catholic (78% for parishioners and 90% for key leaders). Sixty-nine percent of both groups had at least some college education. Parishioners averaged 52 years in age with 26 years in their community. Key leaders averaged 60 years of age with 34 years in their community.

About a fifth of respondents wrote added comments on the back of their questionnaires and these comments are listed in Figure 7c, below. Comments are generally organized from more positive to those with concerns to the more negative. More general comments are at the end of the list.

Table 7
Responses by Area Stakeholders to Questions about the Need for a Catholic Middle and/or High School, Grand Rapids Region, 1999.²⁹

| Items | Member Sample ³⁰ | Teachers ³¹ | Key Leaders ³² |
|--|-----------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. In your judgment, is there a need for a Catholic middle school and/or a Catholic high school in the Grand Rapids area? | | | |
| Yes, we need a Catholic middle school | 21% | 35% | 25% |
| Yes, we need a Catholic high school | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Yes, we need both schools | 23 | 41 | 25 |
| No current opinion | 27 | 6 | 29 |
| No need for either school (skip to #5) | 28 | 18 | 21 |
| Totals | 100% (195) | 100% (17) | 100% (24) |
| 2. Which of the following models do you think the Diocese should pursue at this time? | | | |
| Model 1: Middle school (grades 6-8) with location in this area, about 200 enrollment, 1/20 teacher student ratio, full academic and religious curriculum extra curricular programs, annual tuition \$4,500 to \$5,500 per person, opening in 1-5 years. | 76% (106) | 93% (14) | 71% (14) |
| Model 2: High school (grades 9-12) with location in this area, about 200 enrollment, 1/20 teacher student ratio, full academic and religious curriculum, extra curricular programs annual tuition \$4,500 to \$5,500 per person, opening in 1-5 years. | 30% (106) | 29% (14) | 29% (14) |
| Other preferred model: | 20% (109) | 21% (14) | 29% (14) |
| 3. Should a Catholic middle school or Catholic high school be: | | | |
| New Construction | 11% | 29% | 14% |
| A remodeled existing building if available | 10 | 0 | 14 |
| New or existing building depending on which is most cost-effective. | 79 | 71 | 71 |
| Totals | 100% (118) | 100% (14) | 100% (14) |

²⁹ Parents of Catholic elementary school children are not included since the number of respondents was less than 10, making percentages unreliable. It is possible that some parent questionnaires were not properly coded which would put their responses into the general parish household group shown here.

³⁰ This group is a separate random sample from the general parish household list. This may include some responding parents (see footnote 29).

³¹ Some teachers may also be parents and/or key leaders.

³² Some key leaders may also be parents and/or teachers.

Table 7, Grand Rapids, continued.

| Items | Member Sample | Teachers | Key Leaders |
|--|---------------|-------------------|--------------|
| 4. What key programs should a Catholic middle school and/or high school have, in addition to a strong Catholic identity? | | | |
| Sports | 66% | 71% | 71% |
| Computer technology skills | 89% | 100% | 93% |
| Science labs | 88% | 93% | 93% |
| Music | 79% | 100% | 79% |
| Drama | 55% | 86% | 43% |
| Arts | 74% | 93% | 64% |
| Literature | 74% | 93% | 57% |
| World languages | 76% | 86% | 71% |
| College prep | 77% | 100% | 71% |
| Work skills training | 57% | 86% | 71% |
| Extra curricular activities | 53% | 79% | 57% |
| Other desired programs (please list) | 12% | 21% | 14% |
| Base of each of the percentages | (120) | (14) | (14) |
| 5. Would you be willing to support (in prayer and/or financially through your parish) a Catholic middle school or high school if the diocese decided that there was a need for such a school in your area? | | | |
| No | 42% | | 36% |
| Yes | 58 | N/A ³³ | 64 |
| Totals | 100% (183) | | 100% (22) |
| 6. Estimate of percent of parishioners who would be supportive of a new Catholic middle and/or high school | N/A | 50% (14) | N/A |
| 7. Percent who have children living at home. | 55% (194) | N/A | 20% (25) |

³³ N/A indicates that the question was not asked of this group.

Table 7, Grand Rapids, continued.

| Items | Member Sample | Teachers | Key Leaders |
|---|---|----------|-------------|
| 8. Percent of children at home who are in each grade level 1 st grade 2 nd grade 3 rd grade 4 th grade 5 th grade 6 th grade 7 th grade 8 th grade 9 th grade 10 th grade 11 th grade 12 th grade Totals | 13% 11 11 11 8 11 6 6 5 8 5 4 100% (168) | N/A | Low N |
| 8. How likely is it that one or more of your children would attend a Catholic middle school or Catholic high school if one were available? Very unlikely to attend 2 3 4 Very likely to attend Totals | 30% 6 16 14 34 100% (110) | N/A | Low N |
| 9. Estimate of percentage of parish parents who would like their children to attend a Catholic middle and/or high school. | N/A | 88% (17) | N/A |
| 10. How far would you be willing to have your child travel (by car or bus) to attend a Catholic middle school or Catholic high school if one were available? Up to 4 miles one way 5 to 9 miles one way 10 to 19 miles one way 20 or more miles one way Totals | 17% 32 38 13 100% (90) | N/A | Low N |
| 11. Percentage willing to have their children attend a Catholic middle and/or high school in the Virginia area. | 5% (100) | N/A | Low N |

Table 7, Grand Rapids, continued.

| Items | Member Sample | Teachers | Key Leaders |
|--|---|--|--|
| 11. Tuition projections suggest that the yearly cost would be about \$4,500. To \$5,500 per pupil per year. How difficult would it be for your family to afford this level of tuition? <i>Could not afford</i> <i>Would have considerable difficulty</i> Probably could afford Definitely could afford Totals | 44% 32 18 7 100% (101) | 31% ³⁴ 69 0 -- 100% (16) | Low N |
| 41. Marital status Currently married Single, never married Widow/widower Separated or divorced Other Totals | 82% 2 10 6 0 100% (201) | N/A | 79% 0 21 0 0 100% (24) |
| 42. Average age of respondent | 52.2 | N/A | 59.5 |
| 43. Respondent's gender Male <i>Female</i> Totals | 30% 70 100% (193) | N/A | 38% 62 100% (24) |
| 44. Average years in this community | 26.3 | N/A | 33.6 |
| 45. Respondent's religious affiliation (percent Catholic) | 98% (198) | N/A | 100% (25) |
| 46. Spouse's religious affiliation (percent Catholic) | 78% (158) | N/A | 90% (21) |

³⁴ The question to teachers was to estimate whether local families could afford a Catholic middle or high school.

Table 7, Grand Rapids, continued.

| Items | Member Sample | Teachers | Key Leaders |
|--|---|----------|---|
| 47. Respondent's education Grade school or less Some high school High school graduate Some vocational school Vocational school graduate Some college College graduate Some post graduate college Post graduate or professional degree Totals | 1% 3 18 3 8 20 22 9 18 100% (212) | N/A | 8% 0 19 0 4 23 19 12 15 100% (26) |
| 48. Made comments on back of questionnaire (shown in the appendix) | 21% (211) | 18% (17) | 20% (25) |

Figure 7a: Comments on Selected Models by Grand Rapids Region Respondents

| | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Uniforms | Model 1 but lower tuition | Cost problem |
| Public school program | Middle school | Cost |
| Prefer local | Lower tuition | Cooperative |
| Other locations? | Include 6-8 | Community can't support |
| None | Grade school | Can't afford |
| Not sure | Further study | 6-9 |
| No children in school | Don't have any idea | |
| More students, lower costs | Don't care | |

Figure 7b: Comments on Proposed Programs by Grand Rapids Region Respondents

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Strong catholic | Other programs noted | Community |
| Speech, writing | Leadership, volunteer | Basic education |
| Science | Latin | All are necessary |
| Science | Community service | |
| Public school program | Community outreach | |

Figure 7c: General Comments at End of Questionnaire – Grand Rapids

- 1 Is it possible for these results to be posted for public perusal? We are anxious to see the outcome and would be thrilled if this community could have a Catholic middle school.
- 2 Thinking of home schooling because of school systems. Catholic schools is just for grade school and then they have to switch to regular it would be ice for the kids to continue in the Catholic schools up to graduation.
- 3 My husband and I attended Catholic grade schools and high school. When we were making the decision on where to send our children, the fact the St. Joes only went to 6th grade was a big factor. We felt that our children would have to attend public schools 7-12 change schools, and make all new relationships therefore we just started them in the district. We have been happy with the school system however had Catholic education been available K-12 it would have been our choice.
- 4 Great idea to pursue this possibility! May God truly bless your endeavors!
- 5 We have prayed for a Catholic middle and high school for our area hoping it would be possible for our children. Since that didn't happen we continue to pray for the other young people in our area. We would support financially, prayer and service should it become a reality. We feel that with Brainerd area growing as it is and new families moving into Brainerd, seeing St. Francis and St. Andrews with more and more new parishioners, monied professional people with good paying jobs a Catholic middle and high school would be a good asset to our area and would be supported by the area. A bus comes from Pene River, Pequet Lakes and Nesswa Laity for a Catholic education at St. Francis. I see these era continuing and expanding.
- 6 I feel the middle school concept should be focused on first.
- 7 I don't really know Grand Rapids that well. In my adult life value my education at B.V.M. and Hill Murray both in St Paul, but parents and children need to pay for use, It's a wonderful concept.
- 8 I am sorry but I am 67 years old and my family all live in the Rochester area. I cannot honestly fill this out. This is a good idea except tuition is a problem.
- 9 Our family has had a cabin in the Remer area since 1912. Yet, we only spent a few days per month, summer and winter up there. We do not have any input into what the educational needs of the area are. We would contribute but it would be minimal as we are now helping our grand children through college.
- 10 Sorry I cannot comment on these, I am 80 and in poor health. I am for the Catholic schools if it is financially possible.
- 11 A middle school would be nice, but with our building program we cannot take on further debt. I also cannot see 200 students in middle school. Parents could not afford tuition.
- 12 My children and grandchildren do not live in this area therefore; I have answered only a few of the questions. I think there is a need for Catholic schools especially in the rural areas. I would think large families would find the cost of tuition would be prohibitive.
- 13 I am retired person living in this area for only three years, my thoughts are; Yes we need a Catholic high school in this area. I am not sure it is affordable or that the parishioner will support it. The churches in my opinion are greatly in need of repair. The children in this area are great and do need the support and teachings of our religion, more than they are receiving.
- 14 We are in the process of building a new church and it will be in a location away from the present Catholic school. Really a school should be built at a later date. Get the church built first as we were baptized, confirmed, married, had all our children baptized, confirmed in the church we have feel at home there.

Figure 7c, Grand Rapids, continued.

- 15 We are very supportive of St. Joe's school but attendance does not guarantee that students leave with a strong belief in or commitment to the Catholic faith. When they enter the public school system, most of their friends are not Catholic. Most of them like our St. Joes graduated do not spend much time on their spiritual growth through middle school and high school. A Catholic middle school and high school would provide a forum for religious discussion but here again in itself does not guarantee results. To know God, we must spend time with Him. When do the children at St. Joes spend time alone with God in quiet prayer? When do we as adults? I attended Catholic schools from first grade though one year at St. Johns and then and know I feel closer to God. When I make time for Him, no surprise here. Catholic education at all levels should stress this and clearly define what sets Catholicism apart from other Christian religions. We are the church Christ started, why do our children seem so disinterested in or proud of this fact? Why do many adults? I am not surprised that our children leave home and pretty much cease their participation in the Catholic church. They pray and think of God but fail to be part of the Catholic community from which we find support. God is patient though and again enters their lives though the sacrament of matrimony. Praise God!
- 16 I really feel the timing is bad for a middle or high school as we are struggling with the decision of a new parish complex and school. Catholic education is very important, cradle to grave. I would be for a middle school and high school especially if we can afford to keep our present building and do remodeling to make them conform. Also the middle school will be up for sale, but the \$ would like to help. Maybe we could get our parish assured forgiven for say 10-15 years.
- 17 I apologize they sent Brainerd instead of Grand Rapids. I am sorry I misplaced the first survey, which was for the Brainerd area. I believe the Brainerd area is in definite need of a middle school and high school in the area. But I also think the diocese or surrounding Catholic churches need to contribute more in operating the elementary school we have now. Tuition is high! I have difficult time thinking someone would pay 4500 to 5000 per student! We need to add a bus route to a neighboring city within 15 to 20 miles of Brainerd to pick up students who wanted to attend St. Francis of Assisi school. The Brainerd bus route would not pick up these students, we now have a St. Francis bus to pick them up. And the school is asking for funding for this bus from the Council of Catholic women. Why is it that the churches and or diocese are not more involved? And then they want more money for a new school?! I am sorry. I would love to send my three children through a Catholic high school, but with support.
- 18 Because of the violence, non-Christian attitudes, vulgarity, etc. in schools the disrespect, we would like to see our children in a Catholic school, however, we cannot at anytime in our financial state afford such. Many others of this position may also feel the same.
- 19 Our parish is building a new church and school financially strapping the community already. How can we even think a new high school could be possible? This is a dream, wish list.
- 20 We sincerely believe in Catholic education. Personally I had complete education in the system and am very grateful to my parents to see that I did. Likewise, I taught in Catholic elementary schools for 28 years as a certified teacher. My daughter attended Catholic elementary, no tuition as it was part of my teaching contract. Also she had two years of St. Scholastica college so I truly understand the value of it. Difficulty in answering survey is that I question the feasibility for these many small towns in our area. Will they have finances transportation and equal opportunity to attend a school in Grand Rapids? So many are busing daily for miles to even attend public elementary, middle and high schools. This is a problem you may not realize these children must tolerate. I have lived and taught through it and the winters are cold. Most families could not afford this in Grand Rapids.
- 21 It may be difficult to obtain funding from Grand Rapids at this time When we are building a new church complex that ultimately will include a new school!
- 22 This requires much more study and research. Grand Rapids is now excessively engaged in new school buildings, actually! This includes past and present, what is needed is better teaching and teachers. All grades!

Figure 7c, Grand Rapids, continued.

- 23 I would think finances could be a problem since we are at this time building or planning to a new facility. And having another commitment might be difficult for some. However, if the economy continues to flourish as it has, there is a lot of money out there. But Roman Catholics are also not as generous or committed as our protestant friends.
- 24 When you go to Grand Rapids church the church is only ½ full and 85-90 % and 60 and over. It doesn't appear to be that much interest among the younger to attend mass let alone school. 4,500 to 5,500 per year tuition would make the school only available for the richer people. I don't feel that everybody should be assessed to pay for a school for the rich people so they can impress somebody. Just like wanting to build a new church in Grand Rapids just for Christmas and Easter (the only time it fills up).
- 25 I believe that we Catholics are remiss in recognizing that many Catholics choose not to send their children to a parochial school for a variety of reasons. Thus we fail to have challenging, stimulating activities for ages 1-18 non-attendees. Only the Catholic-school attendees are truly encouraged to participate fully in parish affair. Thus we are the (people) showing they begin to go elsewhere for spiritual needs. By comparison all young members of Protestant churches have numerous diverse activities, then we all lose.
- 26 I believe a financial commitment by the Grand Rapids community would be slim at this time as we are currently committing dollars to our new church facility. Perhaps in a few years, as we design, raise money, and build a school in the next phase of construction a K-8 facility could be proposed.
- 27 There are families from our parish sending their children to Catholic elementary school in Bemidji that is 35 miles away. That is the closest area that has a Catholic population that can support a parochial school; it would be nice to see a Catholic high school in Bemidji, however. I believe they are in another diocese. I don't know if any family would want their children to spend 90 minutes one way to send their children to a Catholic school in Grand Rapids or even Brainerd which is 60 miles away. I would not be willing to support a Catholic school in Grand Rapids; I would put my financial support into my own parish.
- 28 It would be difficult for me to support the building of a new school. I teach in Grand Rapids system and I feel it would be a conflict of interest for me.
- 29 My husband and I would like our children to be brought up in the same schooling facilities, as we were which is public schooling.
- 30 I attended a Catholic elementary school and found it to be very unpleasant; there was a lot of favoritism by the staff for a few students with professional parents. I was shunned and ignored When I tried to participate in school activities and even the school mass! This was a terrible time in my life I hated school even though I was an above average student. I will not subject my children to this kind of "education". I also believe that private schools students are sheltered and don't fit in when put together with public school students. Private schools and Catholic schools are fine for some people but not for me or my children, and I believe our tax dollars should not be spent on a private or Catholic schools.
- 31 This is the second questionnaire I have received. I had a very bad experience with Catholic schools and don't recommend it and have just started going to church in the past few years, because of my bad experience.
- 32 My husband is Catholic I am Lutheran. He went to Catholic schools in Iowa often hearing things that happened in the school I felt it was no better than public schools I attended therefore it was agreed before we married our children would be raised Catholic but not attend Catholic schools, besides which we never could afford 4-5 grand per child to go to you schools, No Way!
- 33 Our current parish school provides a poor model in Catholic education. The school is very divorced from parish life, and the principal terrorizes schools teachers and staff and alienates parish staff and members.

Figure 7c, Grand Rapids, continued.

- 34 Could the old rectory be used for additional classroom space? Couldn't the offices presently housed next to the church be moved to where the priest is currently living? Or could the priest move back to the old rectory, and the current large home where the priest lives be used for classes? I am afraid This project won't commence before my children are all too old to help part of it.
- 35 There is no comparison between the reading, writing, and personal skills our son had before and after entering St. Joe's school! The quality is far superior, teachers and parents care.
- 36 We wish that all Catholic schools elementary and middle school would teach good leadership, citizenship skills to kids. Such curriculum is lacking in the elementary school as well.
- 37 More care should be taken in Catholic institutions that personal devotions are not presented on basics of faith. If a Catholic school begins to resemble a pre-vacation Catholic school we have gone backward. Beware of lip service to the new Catholic catechism treatment of people. Many young people in our area are becoming turned from the church because the eccentricities of some traditionalist groups.
- 38 My children attended St. Joe's elementary school. My youngest changed schools this year as a fourth grader while my older graduated from St. Joes after 6th grade. For 11 years I was very involved in the school and the fund-raising. I sensed that tuition payments were not timely for some and feel that economically tuition of \$4-5000 per student would be difficult to collect.

Appendix

Survey Instruments

Two general forms of the survey instrument were used.

1. General form: This was designed for parents, the general sample of parishioners and key leaders. This form asked questions about households and children. This form was printed in different colors to identify the six regions within the Diocese of Duluth from which the respondent came. For a few teachers who were also parents, this questionnaire was also sent with a cover letter asking for their perspective, this time as a parent rather than a teacher. Tables 1 through 7 show data in columns for respondents by their role. Some parents may also be key leaders or teachers.

Three regional questionnaires had an added question about willingness to send their children to a Catholic middle or high school in a near by region. The added question was asked of respondents in the Pine City, International Falls, and Grand Rapids regions.

2. Priest and Teacher form: A second form was designed for parish priests and used also for teachers. This form calls for assessments by these leaders of the interest of parish parents in having a Catholic middle and/or high school and their assessment of the ability of parents to afford such a school. This form also did not pursue information about the respondent's family and children.

The cover letter, response postcard, and follow-up reminder are also included.



September 3, 1999

Dear Survey Participant,

At my request, the Diocese of Duluth with the assistance of the University of Minnesota Duluth is conducting a survey of school parents and a random sample of parish families to determine the level of need for Catholic middle schools and/or high schools. This study is supported by a foundation grant. Your frank response is needed.

Please respond to the enclosed, confidential questionnaire. Your response will be confidential and the report the Diocese receives will pool responses by area to help us in planning. A post-paid return envelope to the University of Minnesota is provided for your questionnaire

Please complete and return the questionnaire by as soon as convenient. Thank you for your participation in this survey.

Sincerely yours in Christ and Mary,

Roger L. Schwietz, OMI
Bishop

Enclosed: School needs questionnaire
Post-paid questionnaire return envelope
Separate response acknowledgment postcard

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP



Diocese of Duluth
2830 East Fourth Street
Duluth, Minnesota 55812-1501
Tel: (218) 724-9111 Fax: (218) 724-1056

DIOCESE OF DULUTH SCHOOL NEEDS SURVEY

Bishop Roger L. Schwietz, OMI, with the assistance of the University of Minnesota Duluth and grant funding, is conducting a survey to determine whether there is a need for a Catholic middle school or Catholic high school in the Duluth area. Please assist us by **giving your frank answers** to the following questions. Your responses are **confidential** and survey results will be combined for an overall report. Use the back for additional comments.

A stamped return envelope and a response confirmation postcard are provided for responding.

THE NEED FOR NEW CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN THE DULUTH AREA

1. In your judgment, is there a need for a Catholic middle school and/or a Catholic high school in the Duluth area? (*circle one response*)

- 1 **Yes**, we need a Catholic MIDDLE school.
 - 2 **Yes**, we need a Catholic HIGH school.
 - 3 **Yes**, we NEED BOTH a Catholic middle school and a Catholic high school.
 - 4 **No current opinion** on whether there is a need for Catholic middle or high schools.
 - 5 **No need** for either a Catholic middle school or high school. (*If no, skip to question 5*)
- comments:

2. Which of the following models do you think the Diocese should pursue at this time? (*circle all that apply*)

1 Model 1: Middle school (grades 6-8)

Location: in the Duluth area
Enrollment approximately 200
Teacher/student ratio: 1-teacher/20 students
Curriculum: full academic, religious education, and extra curricular programs
Tuition: about \$4,500 to \$5,500 per person per year
Opening in next 1-5 years

2 Model 2: High school (grades 9-12)

Location: in the Duluth area
Enrollment approximately 200
Teacher/student ration: 1-teacher/20 students
Curriculum: full academic, religious education, and extra curricular programs
Tuition: about \$4,500 to \$5,500 per person per year
Opening in next 1-5 years

3 Other preferred model and comments (*please specify*):

3. Should a Catholic middle school or Catholic high school be (*circle response*):

- 1 new construction
- 2 a remodeled existing building, if available
- 3 new or existing building depending on which is most cost-effective

4. What key programs should a Catholic middle school and/or high school have, in addition to a strong Catholic identity? (*circle all that apply*)

- 1 sports
- 2 computer technology skills
- 3 science labs
- 4 music
- 5 drama
- 6 arts
- 7 literature
- 8 world languages
- 9 college prep
- 10 work skills training
- 11 extra curricular activities

Other desired programs or key features (*please specify*)

5. Would you be willing to support (in prayer and/or financially through your parish) a Catholic middle school or high school if the diocese decided that there was a need for such a school in your area? (*circle response*)

- 1 No (please provide comments to help us understand your responses)
- 2 Yes

comments:

6. Do you have children living at home? (*circle response*)

- 1 No (*If no, skip to question 11*)
- 2 Yes

7. If you have children living at home, what is the gender, year of birth, grade and present school of each child.

| | Child's Gender | Year Born | Grade in School | Present School (if attending) |
|---|-----------------------|------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | M F | | | |
| 2 | M F | | | |
| 3 | M F | | | |
| 4 | M F | | | |
| 5 | M F | | | |

8. How likely is it that one or more of your children would attend a Catholic middle school or Catholic high school if one were available? (*circle response*)

Very unlikely to attend 1 2 3 4 5 Very likely to attend
 comments:

9. How far would you be willing to have your child travel (by car or bus) to attend a Catholic middle school or Catholic high school if one were available? (circle response)

- 1 up to 4 miles one way
- 2 5 to 9 miles one way
- 3 10 to 19 miles one way
- 4 20 or more miles one way

comments:

10. Tuition projections suggest that the yearly cost would be about \$4,500 to \$5,500 per pupil per year. How difficult would it be for your family to afford this level of tuition? (circle response)

- 1 Our family could not afford \$4,500 to \$5,500 per pupil per year.
- 2 Our family would have considerable difficulty affording \$4,500 to \$5,500 per pupil per year.
- 3 Our family probably could afford \$4,500 to \$5,500 per pupil per year.
- 4 Our family could definitely afford \$4,500 to \$5,500 per pupil per year.

comments:

11. What is your present marital status? (circle response)

- 1 currently married
- 2 single, never married
- 3 widow/widower
- 4 separated or divorced

Other: (please explain): _____

12. In what year were you born? _____ 19____

13. Your gender (circle response) M F

14. How many years have you lived in this community? _____ years

15. What is your religious affiliation? _____

16. What is the religious affiliation of your spouse (if any)? _____

17. What is the highest level of education you have completed? (circle response)

- 1 grade school or less
- 2 some high school
- 3 high school graduate
- 4 some vocational school
- 5 vocational school graduate
- 6 some college
- 7 college graduate
- 8 some post graduate college
- 9 post graduate or professional degree

Other (please specify): _____

Thank you for your assistance.

Please return separately your completed questionnaire and the response postcard indicating you have mailed your confidential questionnaire, to *Bureau of Business and Economic Research, c/o Don McTavish, 150 SBE, University of Minnesota Duluth, 10 University Drive, Duluth, MN 55812-2496.*

DIOCESE OF DULUTH SCHOOL NEEDS SURVEY

Bishop Roger L. Schwietz, OMI, with the assistance of the University of Minnesota Duluth and grant funding, is conducting a survey to determine whether there is a need for a Catholic middle school or Catholic high school in your area. Please assist us by **giving your frank answers** to the following questions. Your responses are **confidential** and survey results will be combined for an overall report. Use the back for additional comments.

A stamped return envelope and a response confirmation postcard are provided for responding.

THE NEED FOR NEW CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN YOUR AREA

1. In your judgment, is there a need for a Catholic middle school and/or a Catholic high school in your area? *(circle one response)*
 - 1 **Yes**, we need a Catholic MIDDLE school.
 - 2 **Yes**, we need a Catholic HIGH school.
 - 3 **Yes**, we NEED BOTH a Catholic middle school and a Catholic high school.
 - 4 **No current opinion** on whether there is a need for Catholic middle or high schools.
 - 5 **No need** for either a Catholic middle school or high school . *(If no, skip to question 5.)*

comments:

2. Which of the following models do you think the Diocese should pursue at this time? *(circle all that apply)*

1 Model 1: Middle school (grades 6-8)

Location: in your area
 Enrollment approximately 200
 Teacher/student ratio: 1-teacher/20 students
 Curriculum: full academic, religious education, and extra curricular programs
 Tuition: about \$4,500 to \$5,500 per person per year
 Opening in next 1-5 years

2 Model 2: High school (grades 9-12)

Location: in your area
 Enrollment approximately 200
 Teacher/student ration: 1-teacher/20 students
 Curriculum: full academic, religious education, and extra curricular programs
 Tuition: about \$4,500 to \$5,500 per person per year
 Opening in next 1-5 years

3 Other preferred model and comments *(please specify)*:

3. Should a Catholic middle school or Catholic high school be (*circle response*):

- 1 new construction
- 2 a remodeled existing building, if available
- 3 new or existing building depending on which is most cost-effective

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- 2 computer technology skills
- 3 science labs
- 4 music
- 5 drama
- 6 arts
- 7 literature
- 8 world languages
- 9 college prep
- 10 work skills training
- 11 extra curricular activities

Other desired programs or key features (*please specify*)

5. In your judgment, would families in your parish **like to have their children attend** a Catholic middle school or Catholic high school if one were available? (*circle response*)

- 1 No
 - 2 Yes
- comments:

6. If it were decided to have a Catholic middle school or high school in your area, **what issues or problems do you think might arise?** (*please list*)

7. If it were decided to have a Catholic middle school or high school in your area, **do you think that a majority of your parishioners would be willing to support it** (in prayer and/or financially)? (*circle response*)

- 1 No
 - 2 Yes
- comments:

8. Tuition projections suggest that the yearly cost would be about \$4,500 to \$5,500 per pupil per year. How difficult would it be for families in your parish to afford this level of tuition? (circle response)

- 1 They could not afford \$4,500 to \$5,500 per pupil per year.
- 2 They would have considerable difficulty affording \$4,500 to \$5,500 per pupil per year.
- 3 They probably could afford \$4,500 to \$5,500 per pupil per year.
- 4 They could definitely afford \$4,500 to \$5,500 per pupil per year.

comments:

9. To what extent do you agree with the following statement? (circle one response)

I would enjoy being the pastor in a parish with a Catholic middle school or high school.

- 1 Strongly agree
- 2 Agree
- 3 Disagree
- 4 Strongly disagree

comments:

10. In what year were you born? 19____

11. How many years have you lived in this community? _____ years

12. Which area is closest to your parish? (circle one response)

- 1 Duluth
- 2 Hibbing/Virginia
- 3 Brainerd
- 4 Pine City
- 5 International Falls
- 6 Grand Rapids

Thank you for your assistance.

Please return separately your completed questionnaire and the response postcard indicating you have mailed your confidential questionnaire, to *Bureau of Business and Economic Research, c/o Don McTavish, 150 SBE, University of Minnesota Duluth, 10 University Drive, Duluth, MN 55812-2496*

Thank you for returning your Diocese School Needs Survey.

Please mail this postcard separately when you send your completed questionnaire. This will let us know you have mailed your confidential questionnaire and help us avoid sending a reminder.

Diocese School Needs Survey

The Diocese of Duluth sent you a questionnaire regarding the possible need for a Catholic middle school and/or high school in your area. Your response helps provide a solid basis for planning to meet the needs of Diocese families.

If you have already mailed your response, we thank you. If you have not, this is a gentle reminder that your response really counts. Please complete and return your confidential questionnaire today if possible!

Sincerely,

Bureau of Business and Economic Research
c/o Don McTavish
University of Minnesota Duluth

P.S. If you have mislaid your questionnaire, please call me at (218) 726-6140 and leave a message with your address. I will mail one out promptly.