

# ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



Office of Catholic Schools  
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January 13, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians of St. Louise de Marillac School,

On behalf of the Archdiocese of Chicago, I regret to inform you of some difficult news. St. Louise de Marillac School has faced low enrollment in recent years, which has created financial strain on the school. The archdiocese set targets to grow enrollment each year and remain financially solvent. As a result of the loss of 38 students this year, the school now faces a \$250,000 deficit.

Despite strong efforts, the school does not have sufficient fundraising to cover the deficit and outside donors have not stepped forward. As such, the school will close at the end of this school year, effective June 30, 2020.

I recognize this news has a difficult impact on you and your family. We are committed to making the transition caused by this closure as easy as possible. In the coming weeks, a representative from the Archdiocese of Chicago will reach out to you regarding nearby Catholic schools. Realizing you have choices to make, I hope you will consider enrolling your child at another Catholic school in order to continue his or her learning experience in a faith-filled environment while also receiving a well-rounded education.

It is important that families who were planning to apply for a 2020/21 Invest in Kids tax credit scholarship continue to do so. The application will reserve your spot in line, and you will be able to identify a new school for your children when you complete the tax credit scholarship reservation and application processes with Big Shoulders Fund and Empower Illinois. Applications for the tax credit scholarship open on January 14 at 8 a.m. for Big Shoulders and January 15 at 6:30 p.m. for Empower Illinois. We encourage you to apply promptly to receive your date-time stamp. Please visit [schools.archchicago.org/applying-for-a-tax-credit-scholarship](http://schools.archchicago.org/applying-for-a-tax-credit-scholarship) for more information.

In order to assist you in this transition, we have prepared materials to help you in conversations with your children about these tough issues. We have also put together a map of neighboring Catholic schools. Copies of these materials will be available in your school office.

I commend the dedicated leaders, faculty and staff of St. Louise de Marillac School for their tireless work to foster an academically rigorous and faith-filled community. St. Louise de Marillac School has provided a strong education to generations of young men and women helping them develop intellectually, physically and spiritually.

Please know we remain committed to your children's Catholic education and will do everything we can to assist you in the days, weeks and months ahead.

I am praying for you, your family and the St. Louise de Marillac School community.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim Rigg".

Jim Rigg, Ph. D.  
Superintendent of Catholic Schools  
Archdiocese of Chicago