



ARCHDIOCESE OF DENVER

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

Prot. N. AB 2019-0629 AP

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In the ongoing life of the Church, it is an imperative of the highest order that all Catholic children receive proper spiritual formation and formalized education sufficient to lead lives freely as devoted disciples of Jesus Christ. All Catholic families, and the Christian community in general, are fortified by authentic Catholic schools that furnish the best of both spiritual and academic formation for their children.

Sadly, in the increasing secular and morally-relativist world we find ourselves in, and with the push for comprehensive sex-education and the promotion of gender ideology in public schools, secular, non-religious forms of education are no longer viable options for families. The spiritual strength of all Catholic families in the northern part of the Archdiocese of Denver is best supported and sustained through access to legitimate options for educating their children in a distinctly Catholic setting. As you know though, while we have wonderful Catholic K-8 schools, there have been no Catholic educational options available for families with high-school aged children in northern Colorado. This is a reality that today I am excited to announce will be changing.

From June 2016 to February 2017, a feasibility study assessing the viability of a Catholic High School in the north was conducted by the Archdiocese of Denver. This study affirmed what you have known for years: a Catholic High School is needed for the Northern Colorado communities.

Following the feasibility study, the Archdiocese put together a steering committee composed of Northern Colorado parishioners, benefactors, priests, and members of the Archdiocese of Denver team to begin having conversations around how to go about making a Northern Colorado Catholic High School a reality. In the Spring of 2018, following a meeting of the steering committee, I commissioned a smaller executive committee to oversee and immediately begin to work on the establishment of a Catholic high school. This team composed of staff from the Archdiocese and some key leaders, began to work towards developing a concrete plan for a school.

I relayed to this team that the time for waiting is over and tasked them with establishing an exceptional Catholic school that was ready to open its doors in the fall of 2020. This high school must unabashedly and courageously stand with Christ and his Church, embracing the mandate given to us by Christ to “go and make disciples of all nations” (Mt. 28:18). It must also embrace a pedagogy for the intellectual and spiritual formation of young men and women that stands in stark contrast to the secular and anti-intellectual strategies and habits endemic to modern government-sponsored education.

To this end, I am glad to announce that work is underway to establish the *Chesterton Academy of Northern Colorado* and through the grace of our Lord, will open its doors to its first class in the Fall of 2020. The school will be part of the renowned Chesterton Schools Network (<https://chestertonacademy.org/chesterton-schools-network>) and will offer a liberal arts education as embraced by the Church and which has at the core the ongoing, lifelong pursuit of faith, truth, beauty, goodness, wisdom, virtue, and perfection.

Today the Lord invites us to be his workers in this great endeavor. As such, I invite all the faithful of northern Colorado to be a part of the founding of this school. Truly, this high school will not become a reality unless the entire Church of Northern Colorado responds generously to the Lord's invitation. Whether you have children who would benefit from a Catholic education or not, I ask that you respond with an open heart to their requests for time, talent, and treasure that will be needed to see our high school open its doors and welcome its first class in the Fall of 2020.

I invite you to visit the school's webpage www.chestertonnorthernco.org. Here you will find further information on what is developing and where to go to get involved with this exciting initiative, which will bring to reality a dream that began many years ago for the communities of Northern Colorado.

Lastly, I wish to thank the many men and women who over three decades committed time and resources and advocated for this school in Northern Colorado, but never saw it materialized. While we regret it has taken this long, we are grateful that a Catholic high school will soon become a reality for our community.

Let us entrust our efforts to the maternal care and intercession of our Blessed Mother, the Immaculate Conception. May she continue to lead us to remain faithful to her son, Jesus.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Samuel J. Aquila". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name of the signatory.

Most Reverend Samuel J. Aquila, S.T.L.
Archbishop of Denver

CC: Mr. Elias Moo, Superintendent of Catholic Schools