

A statement from Most Rev. Robert Coerver, Bishop of  
Lubbock, on the Diocese of Lubbock Catholic High School at  
Christ the King

August 1, 2019 at Christ the King School

Good afternoon and welcome to Christ the King Catholic School.

Back in May, at the 2019 Christ the King High School Graduation, I mentioned that the conclusion of the academic year ushered in a time for an ending— and a beginning—for our Catholic High School.

Today begins the final steps to the beginning, which is cause for great joy and enthusiasm. This afternoon, we announce that the 2019-2020 school year is the first year of the Diocese of Lubbock Catholic High School at Christ the King in its transformation from a parochial school to its time as a diocesan high school.

With this, we also welcome the principal for the diocesan high school, Mr. Eric Gray.

The Catholic Church has a long history of working to support parents as the primary educators in faith and academics, conveying the importance of education, in general, and Catholic education, in particular.

In 1965—which is not really THAT long ago in history— The Second Vatican Council issued a declaration on Christian Education.

In the document, the bishops of the world under the leadership of Pope St. Paul VI considered the importance of education in the life of a person and education's influence on growth in society. The pope and the Council Fathers considered, even in 1965, that because of the

development of technology, scientific investigation and new methods of communication— people would have more opportunity of connecting culturally and spiritually, and, thus, create access and urgency to the need to educate young people and continue the education of adults.

More recently, Pope Francis has told us that Catholic education is important because, quote, “We need to give a soul to the global world through an intellectual and moral formation that can support the good things that globalization brings and correct the harmful ones,” end quote.

As sharers in the mission of the Catholic Church, we are called to proclaim the mystery of salvation and to restore all things in Christ. Our Church is concerned with a person's whole life— even parts that may be considered secular. Therefore the Church rightfully has a role in the progress of a person’s education.

The Diocese of Lubbock Catholic schools are an answer to that calling, working to form the whole student - body, mind and spirit. Our Catholic schools also serve another function, which is creating an educational community vibrantly living the Gospel spirit.

In the city of Lubbock and throughout the twenty-five counties that form the Diocese of Lubbock, our Catholic schools help grow and nourish Catholic education because of Christ the King School’s established roots and established success.

The high school serves students representing almost every one of the 10 parish communities in Lubbock and students from as far away as Floydada. The high school experienced its largest enrollment last school

year, thus prompting conversations about how to best nourish and prepare for continued growth and the future of Catholic secondary education.” This growth must be nourished with a needed transformation. The growth, and subsequent transformation to a diocesan high school, has been accomplished through much hard work and dedication put forth under the leadership of Superintendent of Catholic Schools Christine Wanjura—thank you, Superintendent Wanjura, for that dedication and work.

It is also because of Christ the King Cathedral Parish, and the generous support of cathedral parishioners, that Christ the King School has grown and prospered. Because of the cathedral parish’s sustenance of Christ the King High School for many years, the mission of the People of God to foster the dialogue between the Church and humanity, a dialogue that benefits both, has been furthered.

The Diocese of Lubbock is profoundly grateful to Christ the King Cathedral Parish, and we bring an end to the parish’s sole responsibility for the high school. Beginning this school year, the Catholic High School at Christ the King is no longer a parochial school -- it is, now, a diocesan high school.

As I also said at the May 2019 commencement, this is “a new beginning that will relieve Christ the King Cathedral Parish of the fiscal burden.”

This is a beginning dictated by growth, with much planning, and with the unanimous support of the Presbyteral Council of the diocese—the representative body of priests who serve in the churches across the Diocese of Lubbock. This growth will dictate a need to assess possible new locations, and we look forward to discussions focused

around this growth and opportunities for the Catholic community in the Diocese of Lubbock.

The Catholic High School at Christ the King, as a diocesan high school, is perfectly situated to thrive under this new model of governance and support. The transformation—from parochial model supported financially by Christ the King parish and parishioners— to a diocesan model supported financially by the Diocese of Lubbock and parishes represented in the high school, will help to nourish the creation of the educational community vibrantly living by the Gospel spirit.

The high school's board structure will also change from an advisory board that supports the Cathedral's rector and the principal for all of Christ the King School—Pre-K through 12th grades— to a board representing the larger Diocese of Lubbock community.

However, the board will have a particular focus on the nature of the high school as an institution tending explicitly to the needs of students in grades nine through twelve. The board will provide support and advice to the Bishop, the Superintendent of Catholic Schools, and to the high school principal.

Now, I'll turn to Superintendent Wanjura to speak more about the diocesan high school, the board structure, and the new high school principal.