

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC

ARCHDIOCESE OF ATLANTA



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Archdiocese of Atlanta announces Catholic School Consolidation

Hal Plummer, superintendent of Catholic schools for the Archdiocese of Atlanta, announced today that beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, Our Lady of Victory School in Tyrone and Our Lady of Mercy School in Fayetteville will be consolidated into one PreK-12 Catholic school on the Our Lady of Mercy campus.

Archbishop Gregory Hartmayer, OFM Conv., approved the consolidation and sees a bright future for the educational community. “This new educational endeavor is a wonderful step in the right direction. We are committed to providing this new school with the resources and support necessary to make it succeed as a strong, academically challenging and faith-filled environment for students and their families. I look forward to digging into this work with Hal Plummer and his team and seeing the results in our graduates.”

Mr. Plummer cited long-standing enrollment challenges at both schools as the primary reason for the decision, “OLV and OLM schools have experienced sharp enrollment declines, losing about 50 percent of their enrollment over the past seven years, so something clearly had to be done. Consolidation is the process of making something stronger or more solid by developing a single more effective or coherent whole, and that’s what we are planning on accomplishing. We believe bringing the two

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schools together on the beautiful OLM campus and developing a strong PreK-12 school will not only stabilize but increase enrollment.”

Mr. Plummer forecasts this move as an important one in the history of schools within the archdiocese. “Both OLV and OLM are schools with a rich history of diversity combined with academic excellence. Changes like this can be painful for the communities they affect, but we really do believe consolidating these two schools into one is the best way for us to move forward. I am deeply grateful to the archdiocese for providing us with about 18 months for thoughtful strategic planning. There is a lot of work ahead: developing ways to collaborate with the local school communities and parishes, exploring the introduction of some new academic and formative educational programs, incorporating the special ethos and beloved traditions of both the OLV and OLM communities into one educational entity, to name a few. But with the help of God’s grace and the support of the archdiocese, we are ready to enter into this new chapter in the history of the Catholic schools of the Archdiocese of Atlanta.” The school will be the first PreK-12 academy-type school model sponsored by the Archdiocese.

Planning updates will be provided throughout the process to ensure a smooth, successful transition.

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The Archdiocese of Atlanta encompasses the northern half of Georgia covering 69 counties. The archdiocese is a vibrant, diverse and rapidly growing Catholic community. As of 2020, there were 102 parishes and missions, 293 diocesan and religious priests, 46 seminarians, 18 archdiocesan Catholic schools, 1.2 million Catholics, and 7.5 million people in north central Georgia.