



October 13, 2011

To: Pastors and Principals
From: Tom Lord, Interim Superintendent
Re: Pastor/Principal Meeting – November 2-3, 2011

Attached to this memo is your invitation to the annual Pastor/Principals' Meeting scheduled for November 2nd and 3rd at the Archbishop Brunett Retreat Center at The Palisades. Although it is unfortunate that the Pastors' meeting was scheduled on the feast of All Souls, I sincerely hope that many of you will be able to attend to hear a keynote address from Father Robert Spitzer of the Magis Center for Reason and Faith. Father Spitzer's presentation is entitled, "Sacramental Leadership--Power of Higher Purpose". Bishop Eusebio will serve as host for the pastors' social gathering and dinner on Wednesday evening, November 2nd. It is my hope then that pastors will be able to join with their principals on November 3rd to hear additional presentations from Fr. Spitzer and to participate in a Communio sharing opportunity within their accreditation cohort.

Principals, this past week I was fortunate to be invited to attend the Curia Retreat, which was led by Archbishop Sartain. During one segment of the retreat, the Archbishop emphasized the importance of Communio (sharing and support) within and throughout all departments in the Archdiocese. This caused me to think about the Communio structure that Bishop Tyson presented to principals this past year. It is my contention that most, if not all, principals would agree that the structure of Communio around the accreditation cycle makes sense, but the implementation of Communio in the cohort structure has its challenges and opportunities. Therefore, in keeping with the spirit of Communio, we will offer the opportunity for the various cohorts to meet and share during each of our quarterly principals' meetings. It is my hope that with this opportunity to share, that principals within each cohort will develop closer relationships with colleagues who are at the same stage in their school's accreditation process and thus will be able to support each other as needed. Therefore, Communio this year will be a time for members of the same cohort to get to know each other, to share thoughts, experiences, concerns and hopes for their schools.

We will be asking principals to sit with their cohorts during the morning sessions with Fr. Spitzer as well as during the designated Communio time. Please invite your pastors to join your cohort during these times. I thank you in advance for your cooperation in this effort. I have asked the CSD staff, as well as your Principals' Executive Committee co-chairs, Kristin Dixon and Matt Barmore, to facilitate the Communio session as I will not be able to attend this meeting.

Blessings and Peace,

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