

# Archdiocese of Detroit

## News Advisory

**To:** News Editors and Assignment Desks  
**From:** Ned McGrath  
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**Date:** May 11, 2005  
**RE:** Letter to the Parents of Notre Dame High School

**\*\*\*Note: The following letter was sent today, Wednesday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, to the parents of Notre Dame High School, Harper Woods:**

May 11, 2005

To the Parents of Notre Dame High School:

As you are aware, the difficult news concerning the future of Notre Dame High School was shared with you in mid-March. Earlier this month, your principal, Mr. Michael Reece, advised you, albeit sadly, to prepare for the June closure of the school. During the past few weeks, however, there have also been several media reports discussing the possibility of a reversal of the archdiocesan decision on Notre Dame. In all fairness to you and your children, I need to inform you that there will be no change in the plans for Notre Dame High School.

In an effort to provide you with the latest and best information, I direct you to two letters sent to the *Detroit Free Press* in response to an article that appeared this past Monday. (The letters can be accessed directly at [www.aodonline.org/aodonline/SchoolClosingInfo](http://www.aodonline.org/aodonline/SchoolClosingInfo) ). You will see that the decision by the archdiocese regarding Notre Dame was informed, in large part, by the assessment of the Marist Fathers. In their words, “*Remaining viable in Harper Woods is no longer possible.*” Plans to move the school to another location need far more time, effort and reflection to be considered realistically. A last-minute promise to instantly “obtain” millions of dollars in funding addresses neither of these two realities. Likewise, proposals to increase enrollment, gain alumni financial support (for the long term) and remain in Harper Woods for a limited number of years seem unrealistic for a school that admits that it “*cannot continue its mission in its current location.*”

Undeniably, these are difficult days for you. Between now and the end of the school year, know that our prayers are with the entire Notre Dame community— past and present. May God continue to bless you and be a Source of strength and acceptance.

Sincerely,

Frances Nadolny, OP, PhD  
Director of Education