



## Diocese of Erie

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### OFFICE OF EDUCATION

February 18, 2016

Dear Parents of students in the Eastern and Western Vicariates of the Diocese of Erie,

This week the Diocese of Erie unveiled *Building in Truth and Love*, the highly anticipated final plan for Catholic schools throughout the 13-county diocese. The blueprint is part of the most comprehensive pastoral planning effort the diocese has undergone in several decades.

Catholic schools in the diocese will benefit from several key aspects of the plan, including a commitment for the creation of the new position of superintendent of schools. A more focused approach for students in grades six to eight is a priority, increasing academic rigor, emphasizing high school preparedness and ensuring age-appropriate experiences in a range of areas including faith development.

The eleven parish-based schools not connected to a system will join the Parish-Based Schools (PBS) Diocesan Collaborative to improve academic quality and operational efficiency.

You will find a link to *Building in Truth and Love* in its entirety, along with a news release about the plan, at **ChooseCatholicSchools.com**. In his letter at the beginning of the plan, Bishop Persico notes it is the fruit of intensive prayer, study, feedback and collaboration by parents, educators and pastors. "We now have a roadmap for faith-based academic excellence which is supported by our parishes and affordable for our families," he wrote, acknowledging there is still much work to do.

I join with our bishop in asking that you commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these initiatives and to our children, who are our hope for the future.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Reverend Nicholas J. Rouch, S.T.D.  
Vicar for Education