



St. John Paul II Catholic Schools

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Dear Stakeholders of St. John Paul II Catholic Schools,

With today's announcement that the late Bishop James Sullivan has been placed on the list of clergy credibly accused of sexual misconduct with a minor while a priest in the Diocese of Lansing, Michigan, the name of "Sullivan Middle School" has been changed.

*Effective immediately, its name will be "**Sacred Heart Middle School.**"*

The school's mission of educating and forming young people is the very reason for its existence, and parents who entrust their children to our Catholic schools can be assured that their children's well-being and safety is our first priority. Catholic schools in the Diocese of Fargo strive to protect and guide all students through "Safe Environment" protocols and "Circle of Grace" education and training. The new name emphasizes that priority, for we seek to educate and protect according to the model of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Bishop John Folda also selected the name "Sacred Heart Middle School" as an acknowledgment of the history of Catholic schools in Fargo, the founding role of the Presentation Sisters, and for the imagery of the boundless love and mercy of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Founded in 1897 by the Presentation Sisters, "Sacred Heart Academy" was the forerunner of Shanley High School. The new middle school name will likewise be a forerunner for our students who enter high school. Moreover, for decades Shanley High School has been under the patronage of the Sacred Heart. A statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus was dedicated in 1955 at the previous Shanley building and now stands at the chapel entrance at the current Shanley-Sacred Heart building.

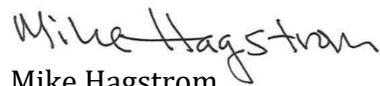


The Mission of St. John Paul II Catholic Schools is to inspire excellence by teaching the total person and fostering the following of Christ, as taught by the Catholic Church

Plans are underway for incorporating the new name in school signage, publications, and materials. "Sacred Heart Middle School" will welcome 6th-8th graders to the new school year on Tuesday, August 24, 2021. In May of 2022, the 8th graders will be the first class to graduate from "Sacred Heart Middle School."

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus console, encourage, and strengthen us in our mission "to inspire excellence by teaching the total person and fostering the following of Christ, as taught by the Catholic Church."

In Christ our sure and certain Hope,



Mike Hagstrom
President

The Diocese of Fargo is committed to the protection of youth. Please report any incidents or suspected incidents of child abuse, including sexual abuse, to civil authorities. If the situation involves a member of the clergy or a religious order, a seminarian, or an employee of a Catholic school, parish, the diocesan offices or other Catholic entity within the diocese, we ask that you also report the incident or suspected incident to Msgr. Joseph Goering, vicar general, at (701) 356-7945 or the victim assistance coordinator, at (701) 356-7965 or by email at victimassistance@fargodiocese.org. To make a report of sexual abuse of a minor and related misconduct by a bishop, go to ReportBishopAbuse.org or call 1-800-276-1562.