

March 1, 2019

Archbishop Naumann, Superintendent O'Hara and to whom it may concern,

On behalf of members of St. Ann Parish and School, we respectfully ask that you prayerfully reconsider the policy to deny admission to students on the basis of his or her parent's same sex union. Recently, a Kindergarten student was denied admission to our School on this basis. It is our belief that Christ's message of inclusion, acceptance, mercy, and love should first and foremost guide such decisions. Please consider Ephesians 4:2-3 "with all humility and gentleness, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

One of the many reasons that we choose to send our children to St. Ann is the welcoming culture, which is central to the original ministry of Jesus Christ. We are proud to be a part of a community that readily supports our neighbors and friends when they are in need. If someone has a new baby, a sick child, is caring for a sick parent or battling illness we send meals to them, help with monetary needs, childcare, rides, prayers and much more. We do not stop to find out in what specific ways their union is or is not in conformance with the Church's teaching or ask what sins they may have committed. We do as Jesus would have done and welcome our friends and neighbors when they knock. We treat others as we would like to be treated. We are inclusive and try to refrain from judgment. We are proud of the community that we have built. We are proud of these values that we share with our children.

Respectfully, we believe that the decision to deny a child of God access to such a wonderful community and education, based on the notion that his or her parent's union is not in accordance with the Church's teaching in Sacramental marriage, lacks the compassion and mercy of Christ's message. We ask you to consider the many ways that other modern marriages may be inconsistent with the Church's teaching on Sacramental marriage (i.e. vasectomy, IVF, divorce, and remarriage without approved annulment). Further, St. Ann does accept non-Catholic children and families into our school. Presumably, these families are not in marriages that are conformant to the teachings of the Church. We respectfully, ask you to consider why non-conformity to some of the Church's teachings rise to the level of refusing admission to children, while others do not. As you are aware, there is not a uniform agreement among each diocese in the Kansas City area regarding admission of students on the basis of his or her parent's same sex union.

We recognize the complexities of morality, politics and theology in modern times. We hope that you can recognize what may seem to be the shifting of values as actually the welcoming of tolerance, love, understanding and mercy. We write motivated by and in full belief in our School's motto:

*"Let everything you do be done in love."* 1 Corinthians 16:14

Thank you for your consideration,