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January 30, 2026

SENT VIA PRIORITY UNITED STATES MAIL

His Eminence Cardinal Blase Cupich
Archdiocese of Chicago
835 North Rush Street
Chicago, IL 60611

RE: REMONSTRATIO TOWARDS THE DECREE CLOSING OF ST. HUBERT CATHOLIC
SCHOOL (HOFFMAN ESTATES, ILLINOIS), IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO, IN
ACCORDANCE WITH CAN. 1734 CIC

Your Eminence,

I, Laura Morrison, JD, JCD, PhD, serve as canonical counsel, advocate and procurator for Ms. Jillian Bernas-Garcia, a mother whose children attend St. Hubert Catholic School in the Archdiocese of Chicago. A Mandate is enclosed. She is submitting this Remonstratio with the support of more than one hundred concerned parents, students, parishioners, alumni and members of the school staff of St. Hubert Catholic School. We address Your Eminence with filial respect and full confidence in your pastoral care regarding what amounts to a decree ordering the closure of St. Hubert Catholic School at the end of the 2025–2026 academic year.

Eminence, the circumstances surrounding the receipt of notification that the school would be closed included the following facts which have scandalized them as there were no meetings about this and there was no input asked for from the parents and other concerned persons and alumni:

Parents received notice of the school's closing on January 22 as they were requesting transparent information on the school's financial position, including:

- an alleged five-year plan that was shared with Cardinal Cupich on which to base this decision,
- why \$500,000 was taken from a restricted fund for school infrastructure without consulting donors,
- why the parish did not pay a proportionate amount of money for their part of the overall debt,
- why parishioners were not made aware of the alleged cost-benefit analysis to maintain the building without a school.
- why all of a sudden, our fundraising goal dropped from \$302,500 to \$168,990 to project a larger deficit
- why parish administration did not pursue viable revenue generating opportunities like cheerleading and sports camps, bingo, grants for preschool, etc.
- and why the pastor is not permitting us to speak with parishioners and share complete information.

The school board and parents were not consulted on important administration decisions that effectively dropped the enrollment by about 48 students from deserving and vulnerable families supported by tuition discounts, while tuition revenue is higher this year. The Superintendent of Catholic Schools Gregory Richmond states that they met with the school seven times, while the truth is that they met with administrators and with parents only once. The meeting with parents was characterized as talking to us and no information was shared about the five-year plan, use of the restricted fund, the cost-benefit analysis, the drop in our fundraising goal, and why they had not pursued important revenue generating opportunities.

Parents were meeting the goals presented to them, however, were met with administrative roadblocks and decisions that crippled their efforts. Parents do not have the operational or administrative abilities to take the action needed to improve the school's position. Parents thought that school had been entrusted to parties interested in its success, but are now comparing information and the observed actions and inactions are troubling.

This contrasts with the swift action and support that was provided upon announcing the closure with grief counselors, comfort dogs, and carefully crafted letters for the pastor and principal to use. Parents are asking where this support was in 2024 and 2025 when they were alone in their pursuits of strengthening the school. They are asking where the financial experts were then, the boiler plate letters to gain parish and community support, and the emphasis on St. Hubert Catholic School at that critical juncture.

There is a coalition of parents, teachers, alumni and parishioners that believe this school is valuable to the community as an institution of academic excellence, strong faith formation, and the future of the Catholic Church in this area. It serves as the only Catholic option in School District 54 boundaries, the largest elementary school district next to Chicago.

Moved by love for the Church and by the desire to safeguard the good of the families and of the children entrusted to the St. Hubert community, my client, in the legitimate exercise of the right guaranteed by can. 212 §3 CIC, wishes to submit to you her concerns and humbly request a

reconsideration of this decision, so that it may be evaluated anew in the light of the Gospel and the spiritual good of the faithful.

In this spirit, and never in an attitude of opposition, but rather of loyal collaboration with the diocesan Pastor, we present the following considerations, which are intended as a service to truth, to justice, and above all to the *salus animarum*.

1. In conformity with canonical norms (in particular can. 1734 §1 CIC), we respectfully request that the execution of the decree of closure be suspended, since an immediate closure would inflict serious and possibly irreparable harm on the right of minors to education, on the stability of the school community, and on the faith journey of the families concerned.
2. Parents have both the duty and the right to ensure an authentically Christian education for their children, and the Church has the responsibility to support them in this mission; the closure of the only Catholic school in District 54 would deprive many families, especially working families, of real access to this possibility, forcing a number of students to attend public schools, with evident distress for those parents who desire an explicitly Catholic formation for their children.
3. St. Hubert Catholic School is a living part of the parish's mission and an important instrument for fostering the faith of children and their families; without a full pastoral assessment of the impact on the community, its closure risks being in tension with the supreme principle expressed in can. 1752 CIC, according to which the salvation of souls is always the highest law and the ultimate criterion of every ecclesial decision.
4. In a constructive spirit, it must also be noted that broad and transparent consultation is of great importance, as recalled by can. 127 CIC, particularly regarding the involvement of the School Board and the accurate communication of the data used to justify the closure, including fundraising targets and the management of restricted funds donated for the needs of the school.
5. Canon 222 §2 CIC, which recalls the Church's duty to promote social justice and to show special care for the poor, invites us to consider with particular attention the impact that discontinuing tuition assistance for indigent families has had on enrollment and on access to Catholic education for the less affluent.

With the same attitude of loyal collaboration, my client wishes to share certain data which, in her view, show that the school's financial situation, while challenging, can nevertheless be addressed through renewed administration and a serious pastoral and financial plan.

- The projections concerning the operating deficit appear to have been significantly and recently affected by a reduction in the expected fundraising (from 302,500 to 168,990 dollars), a reduction made shortly before the main fundraising events and such as to create a more critical economic picture than could realistically have been foreseen.
- More than 500,000 dollars from the infrastructure fund—part of a 1.2-million-dollar fund—appear to have been applied to the parish debt; approximately 600,000 dollars remain, which could help sustain the school facility for a significant period, allowing the necessary time to implement a renewal plan.

- If the annual building maintenance costs (approximately 300,000 dollars) were correctly considered as ordinary parish expenses, since the property is a parish asset and not exclusively a school asset, the school's operations would already appear more sustainable from an economic standpoint.
- Certain potential revenue sources—such as renting the gym and sports facilities or activating part-time programs—were not authorized, although they had an estimated potential income of about 100,000 dollars per year, roughly one third of the building's operating costs, according to my client's assessment.
- Despite the painful loss of 48 students following the discontinuation of tuition discounts for low-income families, the preceding summer showed an increase of about 36 enrollments, a sign of genuine dynamism and of a community that continues to believe in the educational mission of St. Hubert.

An informed, professional report regarding some financial issues surrounding the closing, has been prepared and is enclosed with this Remonstratio for Your review and consideration.

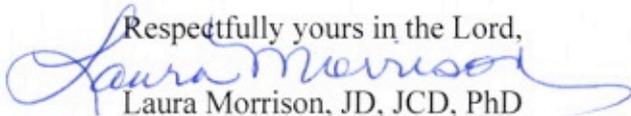
Considering all the above, and in the earnest desire that the St. Hubert community may continue to serve the Gospel through its school, the undersigned, in the name and on behalf of her client, respectfully asks Your Eminence, with filial respect:

1. That the decree ordering the closure of St. Hubert Catholic School be revoked, to safeguard the school's continued presence and its ecclesial service in the area.
2. That the execution of the decree be suspended following this remonstratio (can. 1736).
3. That an independent financial review be ordered, so that the school's actual economic situation and the proper management of restricted funds may be evaluated calmly and objectively, in the greatest transparency toward the faithful.
4. That a formal hearing be granted, at which the strategic plan "Vision 2020," updated financial data, and the mandate documentation may be presented, thus providing the diocesan Authority with all the elements necessary for prudent discernment.

My client, together with the group of faithful who roundly support her, declares herself fully willing and sincerely open to working together to identify a just and shared solution to this serious problem. She longs to address the matter in dialogue, with Your Offices, along with any other concerned persons Your Eminence deems appropriate. She takes to heart, the call of the Church, to listen to the feelings and experiences of the faithful in relation to the Faith.

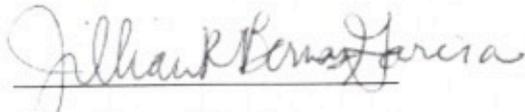
Confident in Your Eminence's pastoral sensitivity and solicitude for families and for the little ones, we entrust this situation to the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph, asking that the Holy Spirit enlighten the decisions to be taken for the true good of the St. Hubert community and of the entire local Church.

Respectfully yours in the Lord,


Laura Morrison, JD, JCD, PhD

MANDATE OF APPOINTMENT

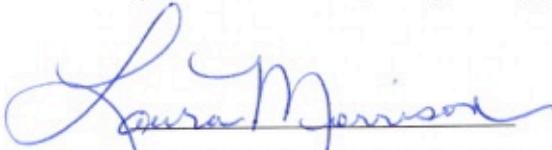
I, Jillian Bernas Garcia, Petitioning Party, hereby appoint Laura Morrison, JD, JCD, PhD whose acceptance and signature are provided below, to serve as my Canonical Procurator, Advocate and Counsel, in all matters regarding my Remonstratio to His Eminence Cardinal Blase Cupich of the Archdiocese of Chicago, regarding the closing of St. Hubert Catholic School in Hoffman Estates, Illinois, in the Archdiocese of Chicago.



Jillian Bernas Garcia

Date: 01/30/2026

I, Laura Morrison, accept the appointment.



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Date:

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