

Save St. Hubert Parent, Teacher, Alumni and Parishioner Coalition FAQ Sheet

Does the school have to close? - Our coalition is asking the same question. The Archdiocese and Fr. Tomy say it is because of low enrollment and a deficit over \$500,000. An independent financial analysis prepared by a forensic auditor and certified fraud examiner has presented evidence that the school can operate at its current deficit for five more years and become cash-flow positive in two years with a modest reduction of 10% in costs. Please see financial analysis here www.savesthubert.com

What happened to enrollment? – Through marketing efforts and parents spreading the word about the school, we welcomed 36 new students last year. Accounting for the eighth-grade class, this would have resulted in an enrollment of 236, very close to the 240 goal.

Then why is the enrollment so low? – At the beginning of the summer, a unilateral decision was made by the pastor and director of operations to eliminate tuition discounts for students paying lower than half price tuition. This meant that about 48 students could not continue at St. Hubert drastically dropping the enrollment, while tuition revenue increased this year due to parents accepting a large tuition increase. These students could have added tuition dollars and helped meet fundraising goals. Due to the fixed costs of education, we can put more children in classes at a lower rate once fixed costs are covered.

Where is the cost-benefit analysis of dismissing hard working families? – To our knowledge, a cost-benefit analysis did not take place.

Is there a process to appeal the decision? – A coalition of parents, teachers, alumni and parishioners worked with a Canon lawyer to submit a Remonstratio to Cardinal Cupich asking him to reverse the decision given the lack of transparency and new financial information. Please see the Remonstratio here www.savesthubert.com which reviews many of the questions that remain.

How long did the school have to raise the money? – Parents were never given clear answers. We would request information and be provided with no information or different information. We were told our FY2025-2026 budget was approved and that we needed to raise \$302,500 during this school year. We were working on that figure and have our two largest fundraisers ahead of us in 2026. No alternative goal or timeline was communicated to us.

Why is the projected deficit so high? – At the last minute in early January, our fundraising goal was lowered to \$168,990 to project a higher deficit consistent with a narrative to close the school. Parents learned about this from Fr. Tomy's bulletin letter.

Where is the cost-benefit analysis of closing the school? – This is a good question. We were told by the Director of Operations that the building will cost approximately \$300,000 per year if the school is closed. Therefore, the cost to keep the school open and to close the school is approximately the same. Parishioners should have access to this report to voice their preference, spend money for a school or money for an empty building?

Why was \$500,000 taken from the \$1.2 million restricted fund for the 2020 Vision capital campaign for school infrastructure? What remains in the account? – In August, \$566,179 dollars were removed from the 2020 Vision account to pay for the parish's \$2.3 million in debt along with the \$673,417 in school debt. Essentially, the school fund was used to cover the parish debt. There remains \$642,840 in the restricted account. Donors were not consulted. <https://holyarchangelsparish.org/2024-holy-archangels-parish-annual-report-1>

Why did nobody say anything to parents and parishioners about the pending closure? - School Advisory Board members and other parents asked many times to share this information with parishioners in the bulletin and through FlockNotes. Fr. Tomy told us we were not permitted to share this information.

How long has the school been a parish mission? – The school has been a parish mission for 65 years and has graduated more than 4,000 students that are leaders in the church and our community.

Who decided to close the school? - This is unknown as Cardinal Cupich says it is the pastor's decision and Fr. Tomy Abraham says it is the Archdiocese's decision. Our coalition is comprised of those most affected by this decision and we are parents, teachers, alumni and parishioners demanding transparency and complete information. How can we continue to support the parish if we do not know what is going on with our resources?

How can we get involved? – Familiarize yourself with the answers to these questions. Talk to your fellow parishioners. They might not even know that the school is closing yet. Make copies of this FAQ form and distribute among parishioners. Talk to Father Tomy in person or call him 847-885-7700 or write to him at tabraham@holyp.org to voice your concern.

What is next? – Parents and teachers presented various revenue generating opportunities to parish administration over the past 18 months. These ideas were never pursued. We are calling on Cardinal Cupich or Father Tomy to reverse the decision, act on the revenue generating opportunities for next year, focus on preparing a school curriculum based on critical thinking skills and classical formation to differentiate our school, and prepare a transparent and viable 5-year program to share with everyone in the community.

Support our cause by volunteering to help at parents@savesthubert.com or by donating to GoFundMe <https://www.gofundme.com/f/save-st-hubert-catholic-school-a-community-united>