



ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE
OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

June 9, 2014

Steve Becker & Abby Figi
Milwaukee Catholic Parents Against Common Core

Dear Mr. Becker and Ms. Figi,

Thank you for your recent letter and sharing with me the petition signed by parents within the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. I take your concerns very seriously.

Catholic schools operate in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee under my direction. Period. To think that I would allow anything to jeopardize the Catholic identity or academic excellence of our schools is insulting, at best. The standards of our Catholic schools far exceed the Common Core standards.

Regarding your suggested directives, Common Core standards are just one of many ways we measure the success of our students. These standards are neither "adopted" nor "adapted." In addition, the standards do not have any impact on curriculum or content whatsoever. And, parents already are welcome to review any and all aspects of our schools curriculum, but to think that parents are more qualified than our academic experts to select said curriculum is ridiculous. So, I guess you can let people know I have satisfied all three suggestions.

The comments submitted with the petitions demonstrate the misinformation being perpetuated by many regarding this topic. I, and others, have clearly and repeatedly stated that in our Catholic schools, all curriculum in every content area is grounded in Catholic Church teachings. Catholic beliefs and values are at the core of every aspect of our Catholic schools' culture and instruction. Quite frankly, I am at a loss as to what more I can say about this topic.

Our time and energy would be better spent promoting our Catholic schools, instead of creating division on the front page of our local newspaper. Especially a division that has no basis in fact and simply distorts reality.

With assurance of prayers, I am,

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Reverend Jerome E. Listecki
Archbishop of Milwaukee

Cc: Most Reverend Donald J. Hying
Dr. Kathleen Cepelka