CONTEXT

▶ We don't really have a set of well-known national values for Catholic education. What is our **Catholic value proposition** during these uncertain times?

▶ Though many of our schools have been quite successful in remote learning, schools are struggling to articulate what it means to be a virtual Catholic school.

▶ The economic downturn is causing many to question whether they can afford Catholic school tuition and has given a new set of financial challenges.

RECOMMENDATIONS

We recommend focusing on the purpose of Catholic education. We are forming disciples by finding God in all things. Our students and educators are learning from this experience, finding meaning and purpose during these twin uncertainties of the pandemic and the economic downturn. A renewal of faith, hope, and charity is needed in the world, and it will come through the children who have been formed in them.

"Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope."
– 1 Peter 3:15

Focus on the successes, many of which are already in your inbox. Also, we recommend asking stakeholders for their opinions and then putting the following together:

▶ Gather testimonies from students discussing how they have been challenged, loved, and continued to learn

▶ Gather testimonies from parents about how happy they have been.

▶ Gather testimonies from staff members about how much they appreciate being a part of the community

▶ Gather testimonies from school leaders about the innovation they have witnessed

We need to tell our stories about innovation, hard work, and success. We have witnessed care and concern for every individual in our communities and have witnessed creative ways to build and strengthen community throughout this crisis.

We need to establish ways to reach out and ascertain what your teachers, students, and families need. How are you gathering feedback? Are you showing care for everyone in your community?

A VALUE PROPOSITION FOR *Catholic Schools During Uncertainty*

▶ PRAYER

A. Prayer nurtures a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and serves as the cornerstone of our lessons and our lives.

B. New and innovative approaches to prayer and formation are strengthening our faith communities.

C. Our schools continue to provide spiritual companionship to all members of their communities through these unprecedented times.

▶ PARTNERSHIP WITH FAMILIES

A. Schools are working to respond to the needs of each family in order to build a better educational experience.

B. Parents are the primary educators of their children and choose Catholic schools as the best option for their children's education.

C. This partnership provides the foundation of our communities.

▶ PERSONALIZATION

A. Catholic schools are small and nimble enough to customize the education for each student.

B. We continue to find ways to show how much we care for every person in our community.

C. We are working with parents to adjust to the changing economic circumstances.

▶ PERSEVERANCE

A. Our teachers find ways to adapt and innovate, overcoming obstacles to teach and connect with students.

B. Our schools continue to provide meaningful learning opportunities despite the disruptions.

C. We are teaching our students to rely on their faith to persist and persevere despite the obstacles that have appeared.

▶ PLANNING

A. We are purposefully planning for all contingencies--face-to-face, remote, or hybrid. We want all members of our community safe, healthy, supported, and learning.

B. Everything we are doing will improve our instruction and strengthen our community, no matter where we are.

C. We are planning to get better.

THIS EXECUTIVE SUMMARY IS A COLLABORATIVE PRODUCT OF THE FOLLOWING:

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