



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Statement from Diocese of Green Bay regarding decision on parental choice voucher program

GREEN BAY, Wis. (June 5, 2013) – Diocese of Green Bay Bishop David L. Ricken releases the following statement regarding the Joint Finance Committee's approval for the expansion of the parental choice voucher program:

"I believe the decision of the committee to expand the parental choice voucher program is a good one. This 'statewide expansion' will allow parents to choose the school which they believe best meets their child's needs. This would include the option of attending a private, faith-based school.

Catholic tradition has long recognized the important role of parents as the primary educators of their children. We strongly believe that families of modest means should not be denied a choice of school just because of their economic status.

While the numbers and the amount are minimal at this point, it is a good beginning. Our Catholic schools, within 16 counties of Northeastern Wisconsin from the Diocese of Green Bay, are eager to receive children whose parents cherish high academic excellence and strong core values.

At this time, when the fabric of marriage and family life is under great stress, children can easily fall through the cracks of educational opportunities. In our communities, we need to work together to ensure that our children receive the best education possible, both now and into the future."

The Diocese of Green Bay includes 8,159 students enrolled at 55 Catholic elementary and middle schools, and 2,209 students at six high schools.

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Who we are: The Catholic Diocese of Green Bay works to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ by helping people in need and by providing academic, leadership and spiritual formation opportunities to parish and school leaders. Established in 1868, the diocese is composed of 324,000 Catholics in 16 counties: Brown, Calumet, Door, Florence, Forest, Kewaunee, Langlade, Manitowoc, Marinette, Menominee, Oconto, Outagamie, Shawano, Waupaca, Waushara and Winnebago.

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