

**STATEMENT ON AVAILABILITY OF SUMMER SCHOOL CLASSES IN THE
ARCHDIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES**

June 8, 2009

By Cardinal Roger Mahony

California's budget deficit continues to present difficult challenges for institutions and individuals throughout our State.

Here in Los Angeles, in order to meet its budget, the Los Angeles Unified School District has been forced to cancel summer school sessions for its elementary and middle school students, and to curtail summer classes at the high school level.

Many students depend on summer school to accumulate credits required for academic advancement. Parents also look to summer sessions for the continuing education of their children in a safe, monitored environment.

LAUSD Superintendent Ramon Cortines estimates that the cancellation of summer school is expected to impact more than 225,000 students in the District.

In speaking with Superintendent Cortines last week, I said that LAUSD students would be most welcome to attend summer classes being offered at many of our Catholic secondary and elementary schools in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. Mr. Cortines was strongly supportive of this invitation, and so I am pleased to announce that our schools stand ready to assist LAUSD students and their parents this summer.

Our elementary and secondary schools offer many of the same summer courses that would normally be provided by LAUSD. In addition, many of our schools also offer safe and well-monitored aftercare programs for younger students.

While our schools charge tuition for summer classes – we have budgets, too -- each of our schools will work individually with parents who may require assistance.

--MORE--

I have asked Father Sal Pilato, our Superintendent of Secondary Schools, and Ms. Pat Livingston, Superintendent of Elementary Schools, to compile lists of schools in the Archdiocese that are offering summer session and/or aftercare programs. At the conclusion of our press briefing in a few moments, they will provide these lists to you.

These lists include the names of the schools, where they are located, and contact information. We have also posted this information on the Internet. To access these lists, students and parents may visit: www.archdiocese.la and click on “Summer School” at the top of the page.

In conclusion, I would like to make special note of the hard work and dedication of our public school colleagues – both teachers and administrators – in these challenging times. It is my hope that through efforts like this, our community will grow closer together as we seek to overcome – for the sake of our children – the fiscal crisis in our State.

#####