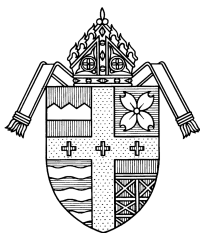


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# The Roman Catholic Diocese of Knoxville



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## **PRESS RELEASE AND MEDIA ADVISORY**

**For immediate release**

**Feb. 26, 2010**

# Bishop of Knoxville rescinds decision to close St. Dominic School

**KNOXVILLE**—Bishop Richard F. Stika of the Diocese of Knoxville announced that he has rescinded the decision to close St. Dominic School at the end of the current academic year. He said he is providing the Kingsport elementary school with a two-year opportunity to demonstrate the school's overall strength.

After the first year the school will need to have demonstrated increased enrollment, an overall reduction in costs, and a healthy pattern of improvement.

The decision to close the school was announced to school parents Jan. 22 and to members of St. Dominic Parish on the weekend of Jan. 23 and 24.

Declining enrollment and an increasing financial burden to the parish led to the decision to close the school, said officials of the Diocese of Knoxville.

Consistent with diocesan practice, tuition assistance will be made available to registered, participating members of St. Dominic Parish through an objective financial review administered through Catholic Charities of East Tennessee Inc. (CCET). Based upon this review, CCET will determine each family's ability to pay and pass that recommendation to the pastor of the parish, in this case, Father Michael Nolan. The pastor reviews evaluations and then accepts or modifies them.

Non-Catholic students are welcome to attend the school as well, space permitting, but their families are responsible for paying the entire cost of tuition.