

St. Thomas More Academy

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Monday, August 18,
2008 The Most Reverend Edwin F. O'Brien Archbishop of Baltimore 320
Cathedral Street Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Your Excellency,

We are in receipt of Dr. Valenti's letter of July 22.

The Board of Directors of Saint Thomas More Academy is both disappointed with the failure of our quest to become recognized as a Catholic School within the Archdiocese of Baltimore, and at the same time thankful that our local priests will now be welcomed in our school.

As previously stated, we base our argument for "home taught" sex ed on the Pontifical Guidelines on Chastity. Quite frankly, our reading of the document indicates to us that home based chastity education is preferred and recommended. Are we misreading this document, or is it for some reason not valid? We sincerely do not understand the superintendent's "my way or the highway" position on this issue. While we will agree to disagree for now, please know that we welcome any discussion or direction to help us understand the superintendent's/Catholic Center's uncompromising opposition to The Pontifical Guidelines.

In order to quell any rumors it is our intent to release to our stakeholders, and the local parishes the enclosed information bulletin. While we believe it to be accurate, please advise us if you have any objections to its content.

Again, Saint Thomas More Academy thanks you and your staff for the time and effort of the Archdiocese, and requests that you keep our community in your prayers as you are in ours.

Sincerely,

Dr. James A. Merkel
President, Board of Directors
Saint Thomas More Academy

A School for all Seasons