

ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE

DEPARTMENT OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION MINISTRIES
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

November 4, 2008

Dr. Jim Merkel St. Thomas
More Academy 3989
Buckeystown Pike
Walkersville, MD 21717

AAAs. AAargie Neff St. Thomas
More Academy 3989
Buckeystown Pike
Walkersville, MD 21717

Dear Dr. Merkel and Ms. Neff:

May the Peace of Christ be with you!

I write to bring to your attention a matter that must be corrected in order to avoid any confusion or misrepresentation surrounding the status of St. Thomas More Academy, especially in light of the recent media attention of the decision of the St. Thomas More Board not to seek Archdiocesan recognition.

The following statement appears on the school's web site:

Our School

Saint Thomas More Academy is an independent Catholic elementary and middle school founded in 2000 to meet the increasing demand for faith-based education in Frederick County. Inspired by the very best qualities of Catholic scholasticism that blend the rigors of a classical liberal arts curriculum with lessons in spirituality and virtuous living, Saint Thomas More Academy empowers each student to reach his or her fullest potential.

Please remove the word "Catholic" from the above description found on your web site and do not use it to describe the school in any medium, including printed materials and those appearing on the Internet. Only schools operating in the Archdiocese that have been appropriately designated by the Archbishop may identify themselves as "Catholic."

I wish to remind you that the Archdiocese is ready and willing to revisit the recognition of St. Thomas More Academy as a Catholic school based on the understanding and requirements that were first promulgated when the process began.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Ronald J. Valenti
Superintendent of Catholic Schools

Cc: Archbishop Edwin O'Brien
Bishop Mitchell Rozanski
Carol Goldbeck Sean Caine
Msgr. John Dietzenbach, V.F.