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Catholic Schools Network marks official name, logo change

In May 2011, Bishop Samuel Aquila announced a name change for the Catholic schools network in the Fargo metro area.

"As we move forward with anticipation for a West Fargo/Horace Catholic school, the name 'Fargo Catholic Schools Network' will no longer tell the full story of who we are," he wrote in a May 3 pastoral letter that addressed changes in schools and parishes in Fargo, West Fargo, Horace and Kindred.

The new name for the network is Blessed John Paul II Catholic Schools Network. "Knowing Blessed John Paul II's love for youth and Catholic education, we place our Catholic schools, youth, faculty and administration under his patronage and intercession," Bishop Aquila wrote.

The schools that are currently part of the network are Shanley High School, Sullivan Middle School and Nativity and Holy Spirit elementary schools, all in Fargo. A new elementary school is planned at a site in West Fargo on which the new Holy Cross Catholic Church will be built. The possibility of a second new elementary school "will be ensured in the site planning for St. Benedict's should continued growth of the metro area occur," the pastoral letter noted. That site is in Horace; thus the network may eventually have schools in three metro area communities.

In time for the beginning of the 2011-2012 school year, the John Paul II Catholic Schools Network unveiled its new logo. The logo includes an image of Blessed John Paul II, who was pope from 1978 until his death in 2005, and retains the historic red and black colors of the network. The new logo also shows the approved shortened version of the network's name: JP II Catholic Schools.

"We are excited to begin this new school year under the patronage of Blessed John Paul II," said Deacon David Haney, superintendent for the JP II Catholic Schools. "This new logo depicts, in a simple way, the face of the pope who led us into the third millennium. Through his 2003 encyclical, *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, Pope John Paul II invited the faithful to contemplate the face of Christ, and particularly the 'Eucharistic face' of Christ, noting the centrality of the Eucharist in the Catholic Church. In the Blessed John Paul II Catholic Schools Network, this message calls us to focus all instruction and all effort, first and foremost, on Jesus Christ present to us in the Eucharist. When we as students, faculty, staff and administration continually strive to grow in our relationship with Jesus, we will be better able to fulfill Jesus' call for our lives. We will be better able to bring Jesus Christ to a world that so badly needs him."

