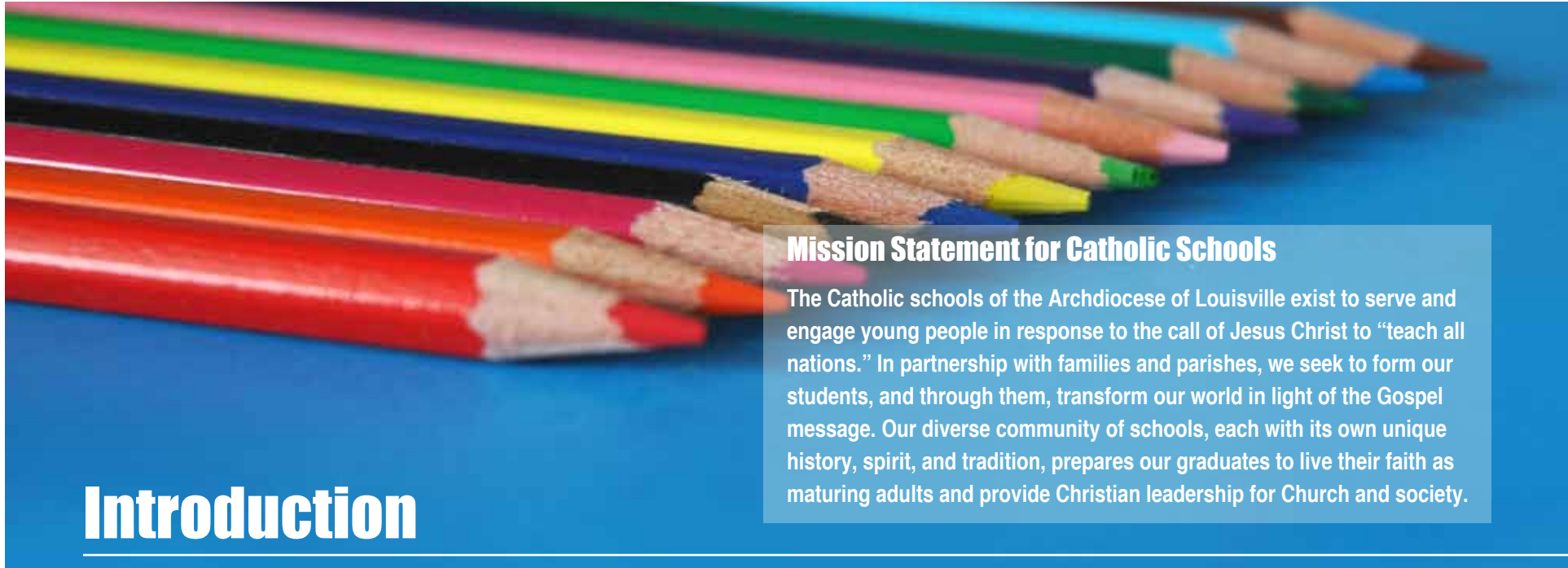




2012  
*Catholic Elementary School Report*





# Introduction

## Mission Statement for Catholic Schools

The Catholic schools of the Archdiocese of Louisville exist to serve and engage young people in response to the call of Jesus Christ to “teach all nations.” In partnership with families and parishes, we seek to form our students, and through them, transform our world in light of the Gospel message. Our diverse community of schools, each with its own unique history, spirit, and tradition, prepares our graduates to live their faith as maturing adults and provide Christian leadership for Church and society.

The future of Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Louisville is dependent on leadership and careful planning. This report has been compiled to provide parish and school leaders with data to assist them as they study and consider the best ways to address challenges facing Catholic elementary schools. While the focus of this study is on K-8 schools, the information will certainly inform those charged with planning for secondary education as well.

The initial reflection, “[Foundations in Faith](#)”, places Catholic schools in the context of the Church’s mission of evangelization through education and formation. We are encouraged by Pope Benedict XVI’s conclusion that providing education in the faith is the most urgent challenge facing the Catholic community.

The next section, “[Elementary School Data](#)”, provides an overview of elementary school data with information about the number and size of schools, demographic trends, quality

of schools, and parent satisfaction. While individual school data may differ, this collective report provides an overall look at the state of our schools.

The third section, “[Challenges](#)”, presents data on some of the challenges we are facing: Catholic school finances, school age population trends, and decreased involvement in the Catholic faith.

Some reflection questions conclude the report and will assist readers as they consider the issues surfaced in the document. An even more thorough analysis of these topics will likely occur during the archdiocesan-wide study and planning process.



# Foundations in Faith

## Part I:

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### Go Out To All the World and Tell the Good News

Scripture depicts frequent scenes of Jesus forming His followers' faith as He challenged those listening through the paradoxes of the parables and as He presented a vision of the Kingdom of God. By using the language and images of His day, Jesus helped men and women understand their relationship to God and their human dignity. From Jesus, the apostles received the revelation of God's plan, and they, in turn, handed it on faithfully to the generations that followed. Thus, for more than 2,000 years, the teaching ministry of Jesus has provided the inspiration and example for His disciples' work of proclaiming the good news to all nations through the education and faith formation of people at all stages of life.

The formation of faith is one of the Church's primary tasks. Since the days of the early Church, Christians have reflected on their faith experiences and shared them with one another. In medieval times, the Church became a center of reason, of critical thought, of philosophical discourse, and of great art, poetry, and music. Through the succeeding centuries, missionaries spread the good news through Europe and beyond to all corners of the world.

In the United States, Catholic education took on great vitality in the 19th and 20th centuries as a growing number of dioceses, religious communities, and parishes established elementary and secondary schools, colleges, and universities.

Today "formation" and "education" are both essential aspects of our teaching ministry in the Archdiocese of Louisville – in adult education and formation, in ministry to youth and young adults, in parish religious education, and in Catholic schools. Though formal schooling

as a preparation for the responsibilities of adulthood takes precedence at certain times and in certain circumstances of an individual's life, religious formation is an essentially lifelong task that should engage the whole person. According to Pope Benedict XVI:

*First, as we know, the essential task of authentic education at every level is not simply that of passing on knowledge, essential as this is, but also of shaping hearts. There is a constant need to balance intellectual rigor in communicating effectively, attractively and integrally, the richness of the Church's faith with forming the young in the love of God, the praxis of the Christian moral and sacramental life and, not least, the cultivation of personal and liturgical prayer.*

Thus, all aspects of a complete Catholic faith development process should complement and enrich the other, whether this process takes place in a Catholic school or in another education/formation setting.

### Schools as Evangelizing Communities

As part of our focus on lifelong learning in the Archdiocese of Louisville, we are firmly committed to Catholic schools and recognize them as an integral part of the mission of the Church in Central Kentucky. We are blessed with a long and successful tradition of Catholic schools on which to build. Furthermore, our own experience and national studies have told us that Catholic schools are our most effective means of evangelization and of helping children, youth, and adults to integrate their faith with daily life. Indeed, because of the integration of religious values with knowledge and life experiences that takes place in them, Catholic schools are in an excellent position to help us realize our vision of lifelong education and formation,



# Foundations in Faith – continued

## Part I:

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which includes proclaiming the Gospel; inspiring students, faculty, parents and staff to their full potential; leading persons to prayer and worship; building community; and transforming the world.

Pope Benedict XVI has spoken of the vital contribution that Catholic school education can make to the new evangelization:

*As has often been mentioned in our meetings, these schools remain an essential resource for the new evangelization, and the significant contribution that they make to American society as a whole ought to be better appreciated and more generously supported... It is no exaggeration to say that providing young people with a sound education in the faith represents the most urgent internal challenge facing the Catholic community in your country. The deposit of faith is a priceless treasure, which each generation must pass on to the next by winning hearts to Jesus Christ and shaping minds in the knowledge, understanding and love of his Church. It is gratifying to realize that, in our day too, the Christian vision, presented in its breadth and integrity, proves immensely appealing to the imagination, idealism and aspirations of the young, who have a right to encounter the faith in all its beauty, its intellectual richness and its radical demands.*

### The Importance of Planning

Leadership, careful planning, and commitment are all required to address the future of Catholic schools in central Kentucky and throughout the United States. Mission questions related to access, the equitable distribution of resources, and outreach to the poor and disenfranchised combine with the very practical realities of

the facilities, resources, and technology needed to provide a 21st-century educational experience. Pope Benedict XVI spoke of the need for careful planning in his 2008 visit to the United States:

*Important efforts are also being made to preserve the great patrimony of America's Catholic elementary and high schools, which have been deeply affected by changing demographics and increased costs, while at the same time ensuring that the education they provide remains within the reach of all families, whatever their financial status."*

Because of our commitment to the teaching ministry of Jesus Christ, we are committed to engaging the human and financial resources needed to provide a Catholic school education for future generations. There is no question that the collaborative efforts of many will be needed to continue the foundations of faith that have served us so well for more than 200 years. Thus we have taken several steps, including a major research study conducted by Horizon Insight as well as additional data-gathering, to form a solid foundation for the school planning process that will be conducted during 2013. We embark on this planning process with faith and hope in the Spirit that guides us.

### Vision Statement for Catholic Schools

As stewards of Catholic education, our community of schools leads the way to a just and life-giving future without limits. Through collaboration, our faith and learning communities empower each other to learn our Catholic teachings, achieve academic excellence, embrace diversity, accept challenges, take risks, and seek God's image in self and others. We are called to transform ourselves, one another, and the world through the Gospel of Jesus Christ in this complex time of rapid change.



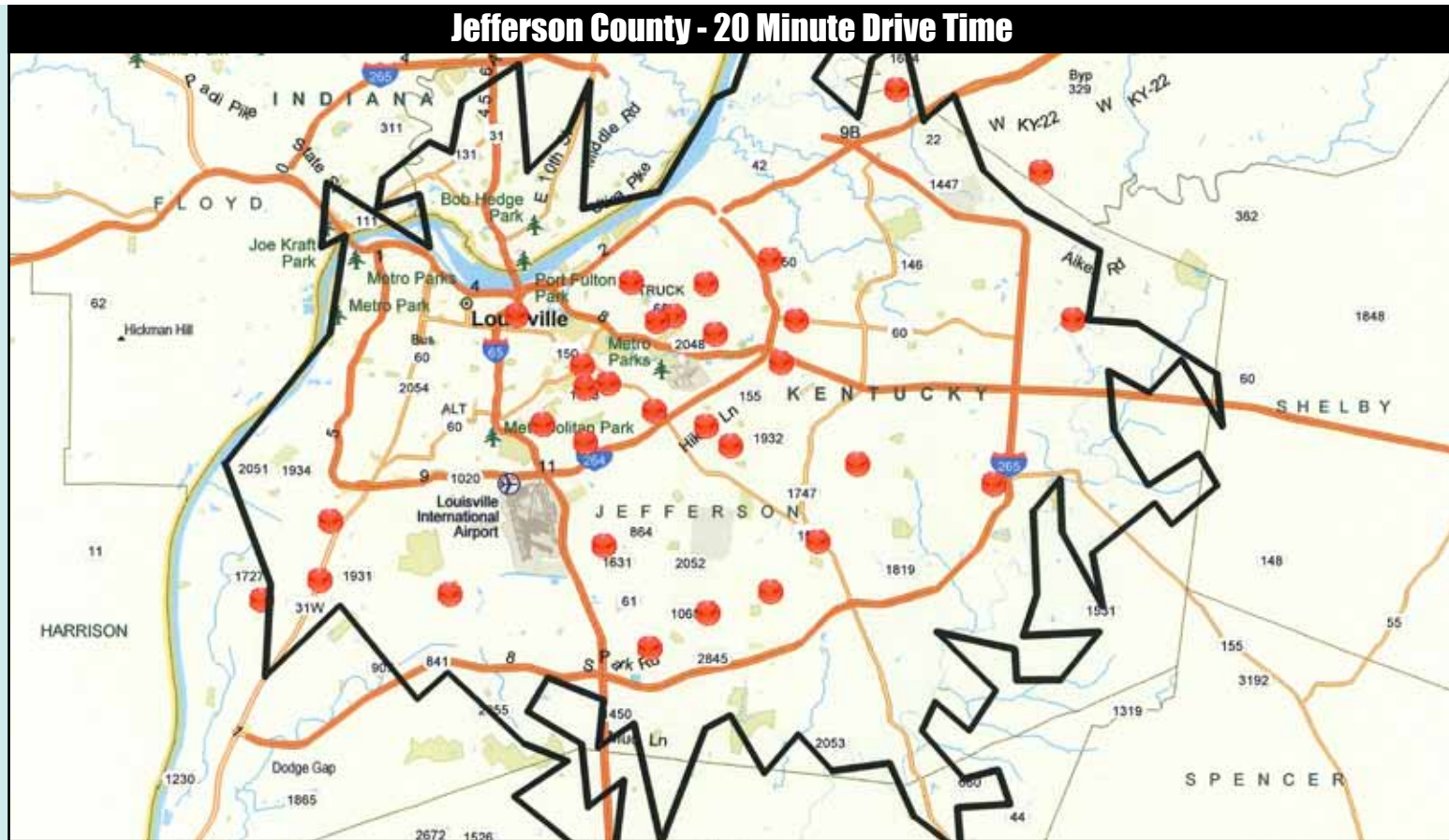


*The deposit of faith is a priceless treasure...*



# Elementary School Data - Location of Catholic Elementary Schools

## Part II:



### Location of Catholic Elementary Schools

As we enter into 2013, the Archdiocese of Louisville has 35 traditional elementary schools and three special schools serving 13,755 students in grades PK-8; 12,730 in grades K-8. There are 30 schools in Jefferson County, and eight schools in five other Kentucky counties: Hardin, Marion, Nelson, Oldham, and Washington.

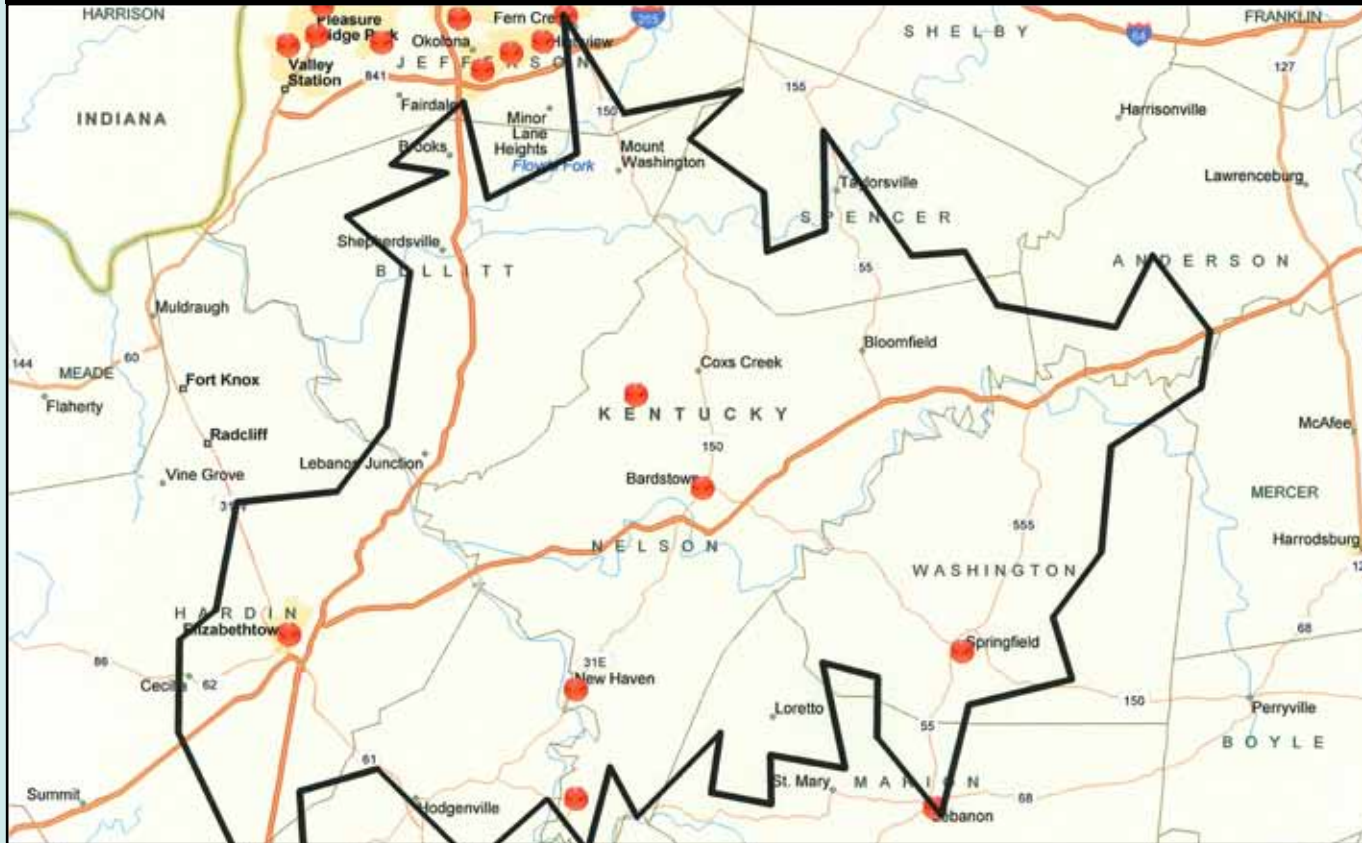
Using St. Raphael Church, which is near the intersection of Bardstown Road and the Watterson Expressway, as the center point of the county and as a starting point, all 30 schools in Jefferson County can be reached within a 20-minute drive time.



# Elementary School Data - Location of Catholic Elementary Schools

## Part II:

### Central Kentucky Counties - 35 Minute Drive Time



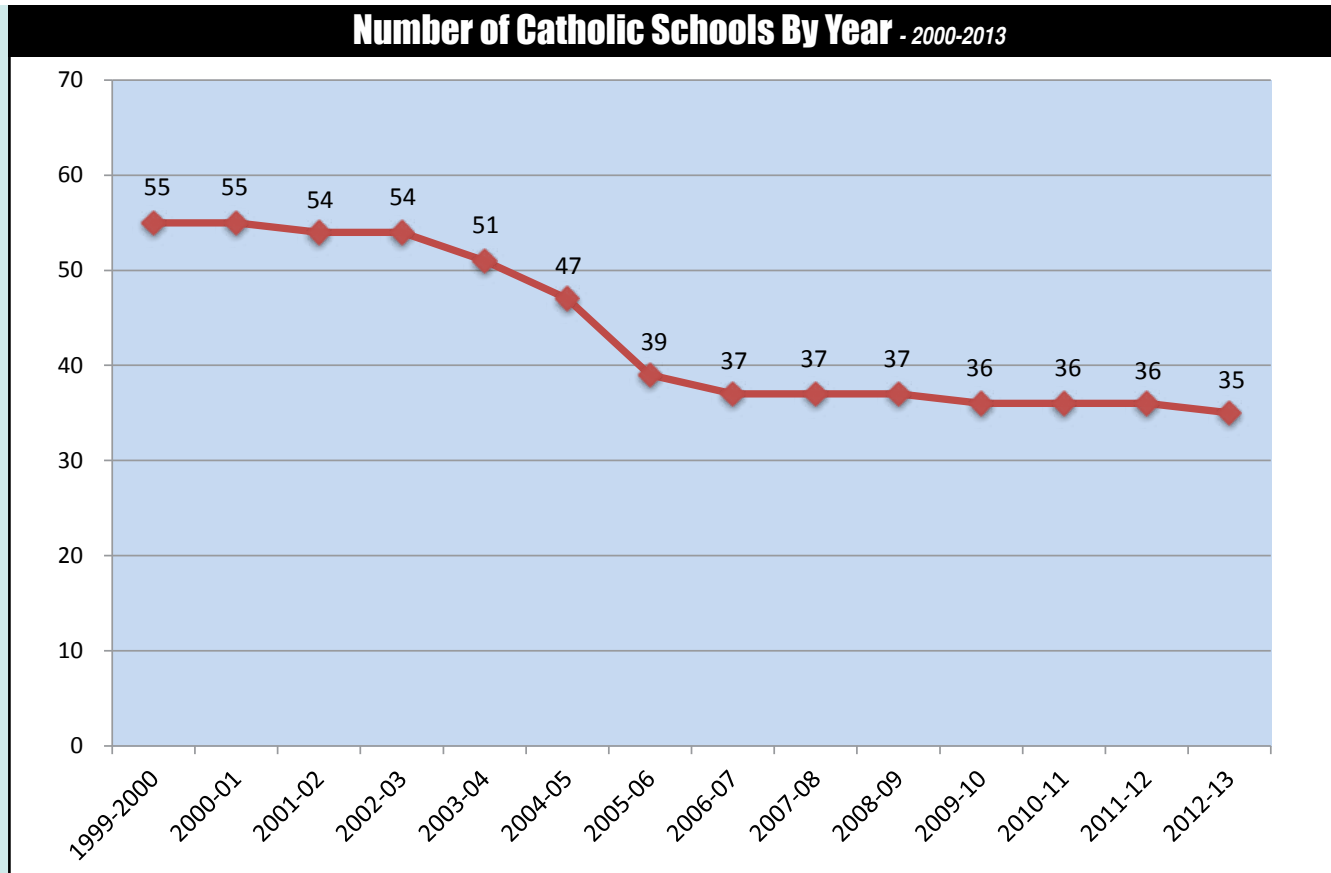
### Location of Catholic Elementary Schools - continued

Using the Basilica of St. Joseph Proto-Cathedral in Bardstown as a center and starting point, seven of the archdiocesan eight rural county schools are located within a 35-minute drive and a 23-mile radius. (The lone exception is St. Aloysius School in Pewee Valley).



# Elementary School Data - Number of Catholic Elementary Schools

## Part II:



Source: Office of Superintendent of Schools

### Number of Catholic Elementary Schools

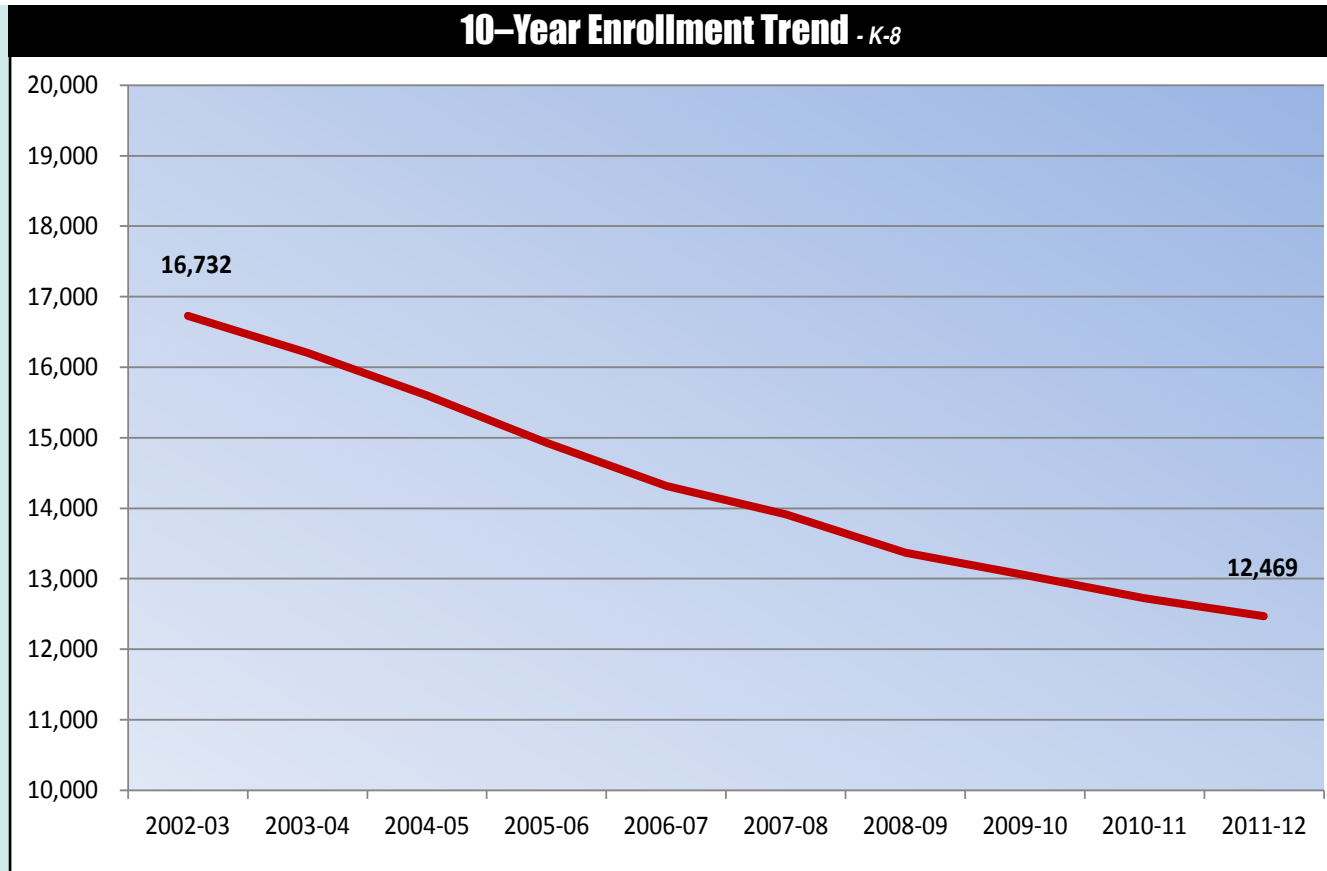
From the year 2000 to this year, the number of archdiocesan traditional schools has decreased from 55 to 35. This loss of schools occurred through two distinct approaches, but both approaches stemmed from significant enrollment declines combined with severe financial losses, which the schools could not survive. One approach to these enrollment declines was to consolidate struggling institutions into regional school academies. This tactic resulted in 15 schools being combined to produce five regional schools within Jefferson County. Other schools simply closed due to the lack of viable options.





# Elementary School Data - Enrollment Trends

## Part II:



Source: Office of Superintendent of Schools

## Enrollment Trends

For more than a decade, Catholic schools, both locally and nationally, have experienced steady declines in enrollment. During the 2011-2012 school year, the 36 traditional elementary schools served 12,469 students in grades K-8, which represented more than a 25% decline over the previous 10 years.

Regressive enrollment patterns will likely persist until there is a reversal in the pattern of smaller incoming kindergarten classes replacing larger outgoing eighth grade classes.



# Elementary School Data - Enrollment Trends

## Part II:

### Enrollment Trends -continued

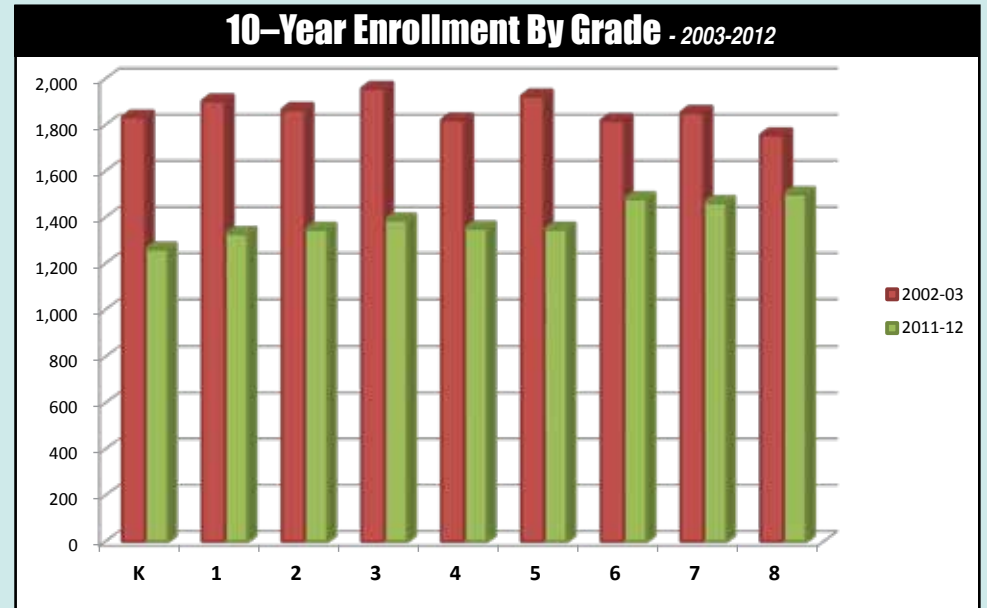
Collectively the elementary schools are operating at approximately three-quarters capacity. In 2011-2012, only nine of the schools operated with enrollment above 90% of their capacity. Seventeen schools operated with 25% or more of their capacity going unfilled, while six of these facilities are less than half occupied.

There is wide geographic reach of Catholic schools in Jefferson and Oldham Counties. Schools attract students from virtually all zip codes in Jefferson County, from southern Indiana, and from as far away as Nelson, Henry, and Trimble counties in Kentucky. Density mapping depicts a wide variance of enrollment numbers.

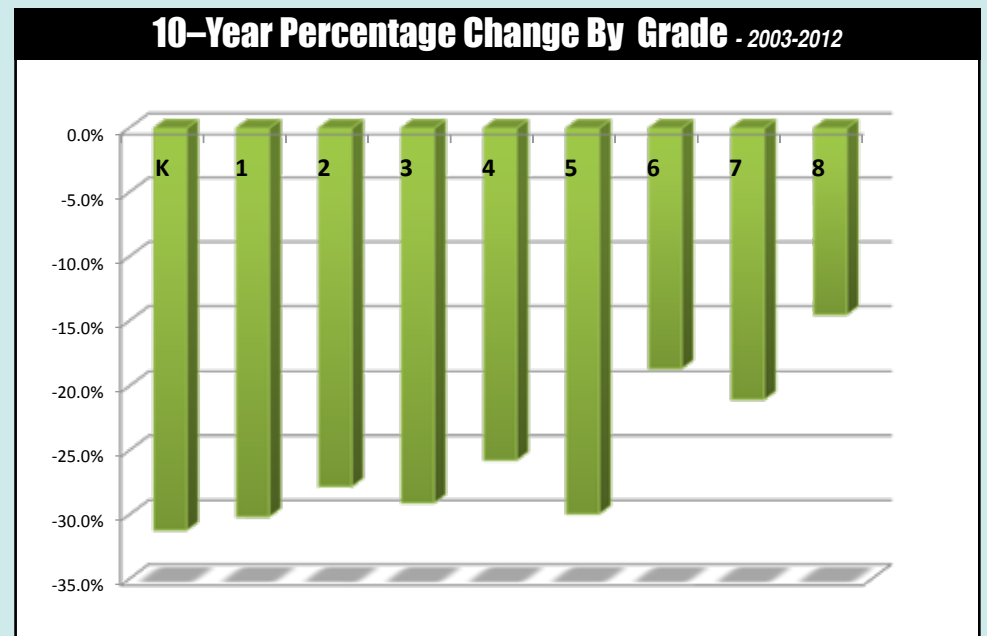
Market share is one indicator of school system stability. Jefferson County's 2010-2011 market share of K-8 students in Catholic traditional and special schools was 13% of all elementary-age students in Jefferson County. Downtown, west, southwest, and south-central Jefferson County depict the smallest share at 8% or less, while east and suburban east portions of the county experience a 20-30% market share.

Washington County ranks highest among the other 5 counties serving a 12% market share of all K-8 students in the county. The other counties serve less than 10% each.

Our Catholic school enrollment, as a percentage of all archdiocesan Catholics, ranks third highest nationally and stands at three times the national average.



Source: Office of Superintendent of Schools



Source: Office of Superintendent of Schools



# Elementary School Data - Enrollment Trends

## Part II:

**Jefferson – Oldham Catholic Schools Enrolled Elementary Students By Zip Code**



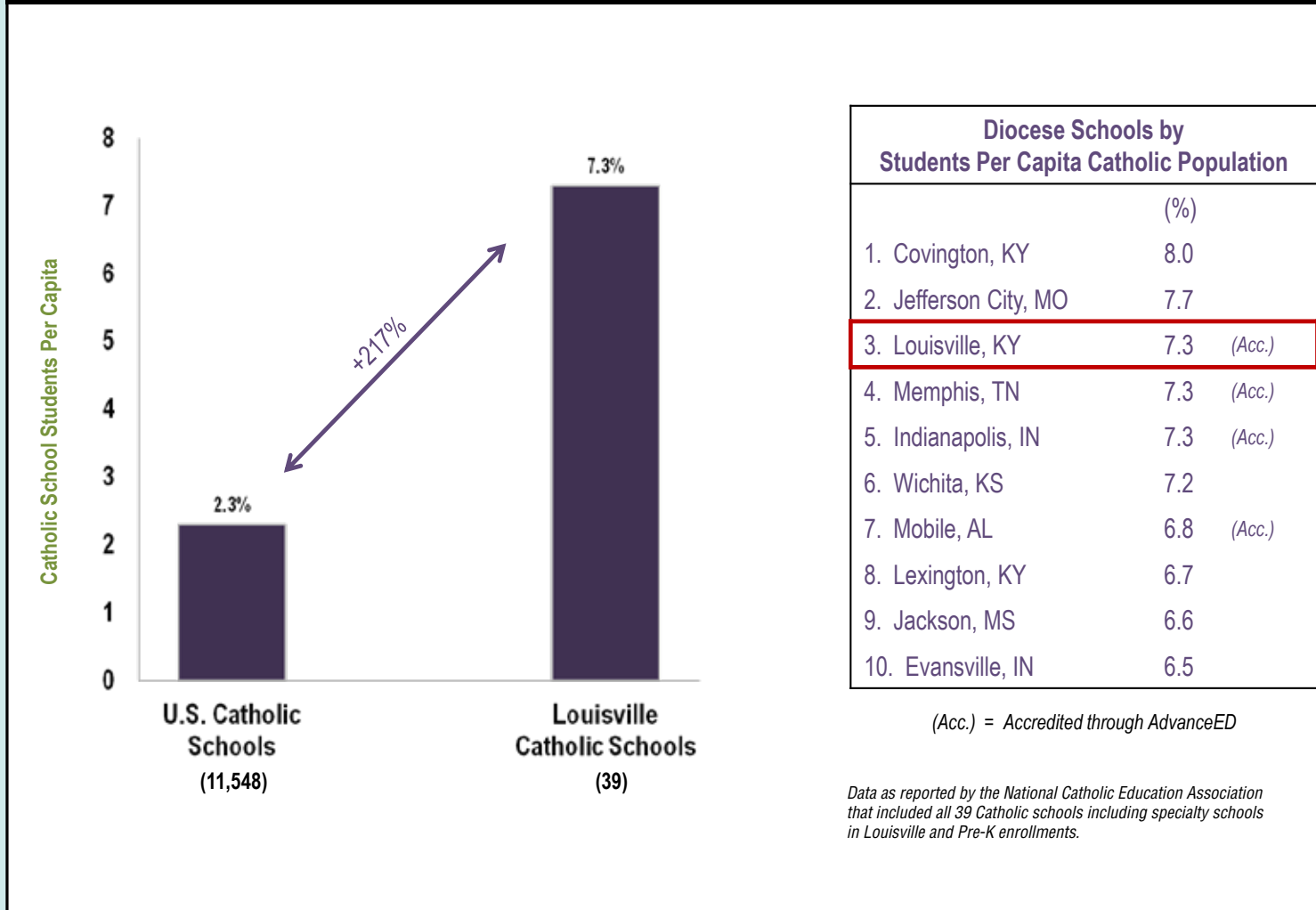
Source: Office of Superintendent of Schools



# Elementary School Data - Enrollment Trends

## Part II:

**Per Capita Enrollment** – Diocesan Catholic School Enrollment as a % of Total Diocesan Catholics - 2011



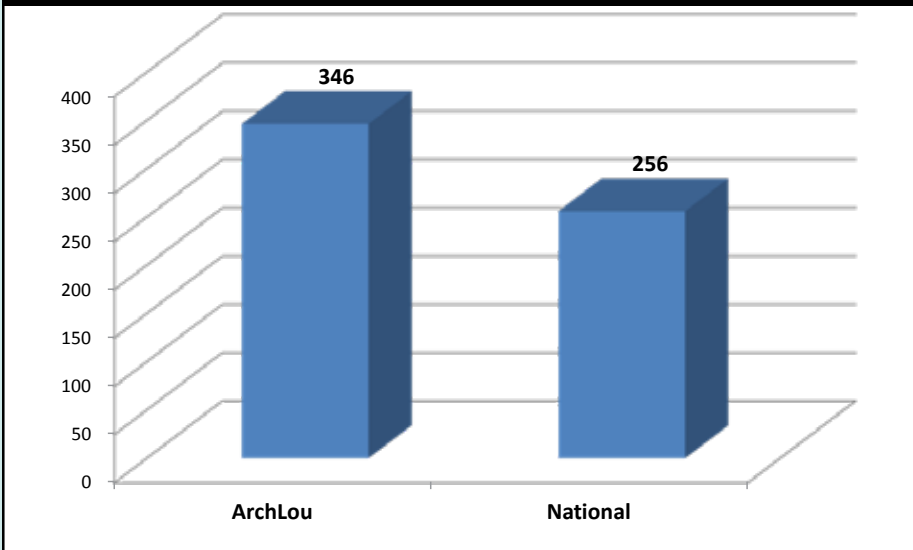
Source: Horizon Insight "Catholic Education Trends" (2012)



# Elementary School Data - School Size

## Part II:

**Average Enrollment Per Catholic School - 2012**

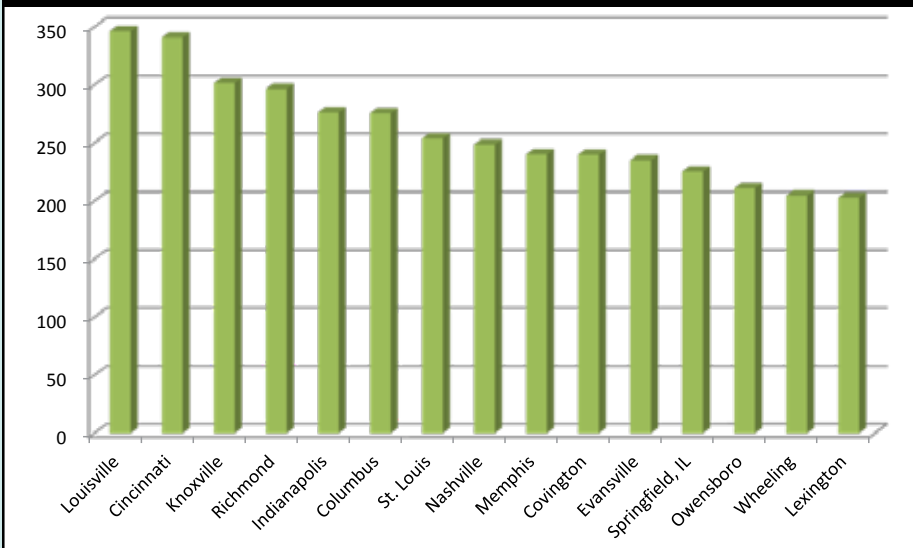


Source for National Data:  
The Annual Statistical  
Report on Schools,  
Enrollment and Staffing  
2011-12

### School Size

Our average enrollment per Catholic elementary school is 346, which is significantly higher than the national average of 256. This difference represents a 35% variance and allows our schools to operate more efficiently. The 346 average is highest among all dioceses within reasonable size and proximity to the Archdiocese of Louisville.

**Average Enrollment Per Catholic School - 2012**

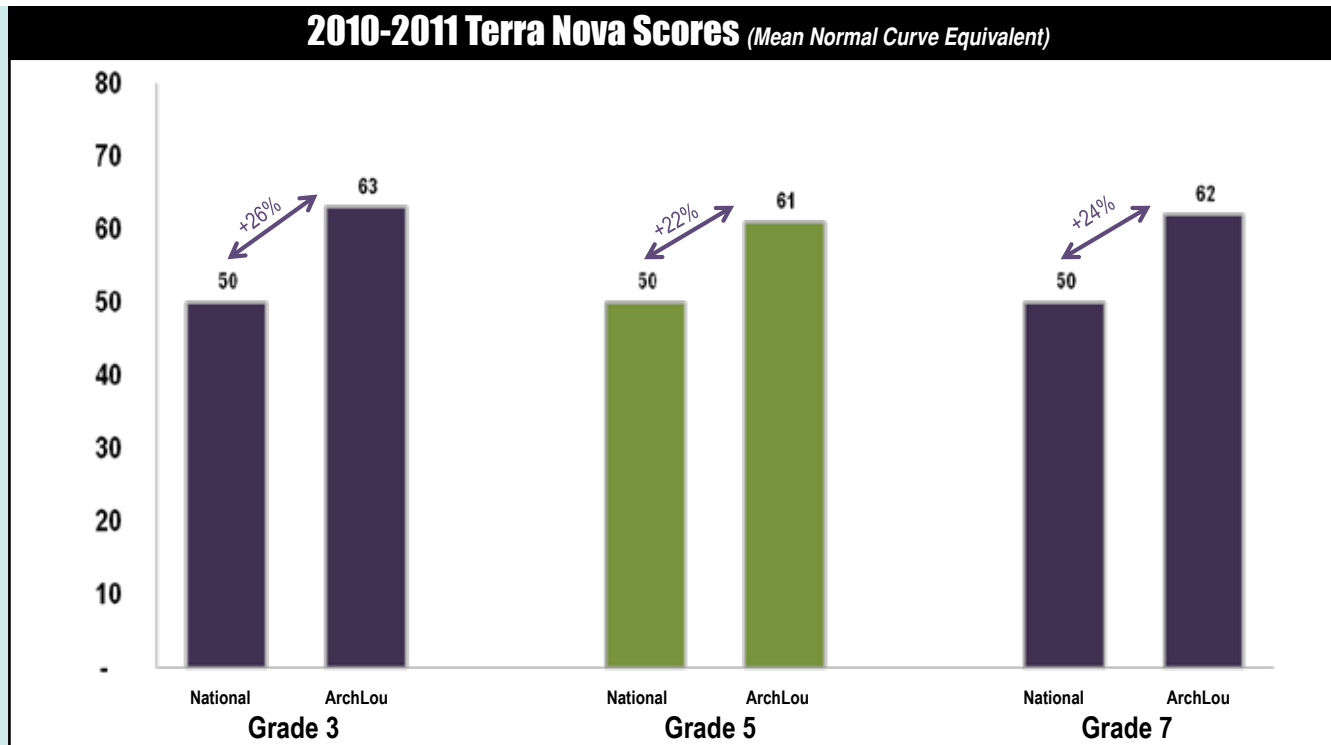


Source for National Data:  
The Annual Statistical  
Report on Schools,  
Enrollment and Staffing  
2011-12



# Elementary School Data - Academic Performance

## Part II:



Source: Horizon Insight "Catholic Education Trends" (2012)

## Academic Performance

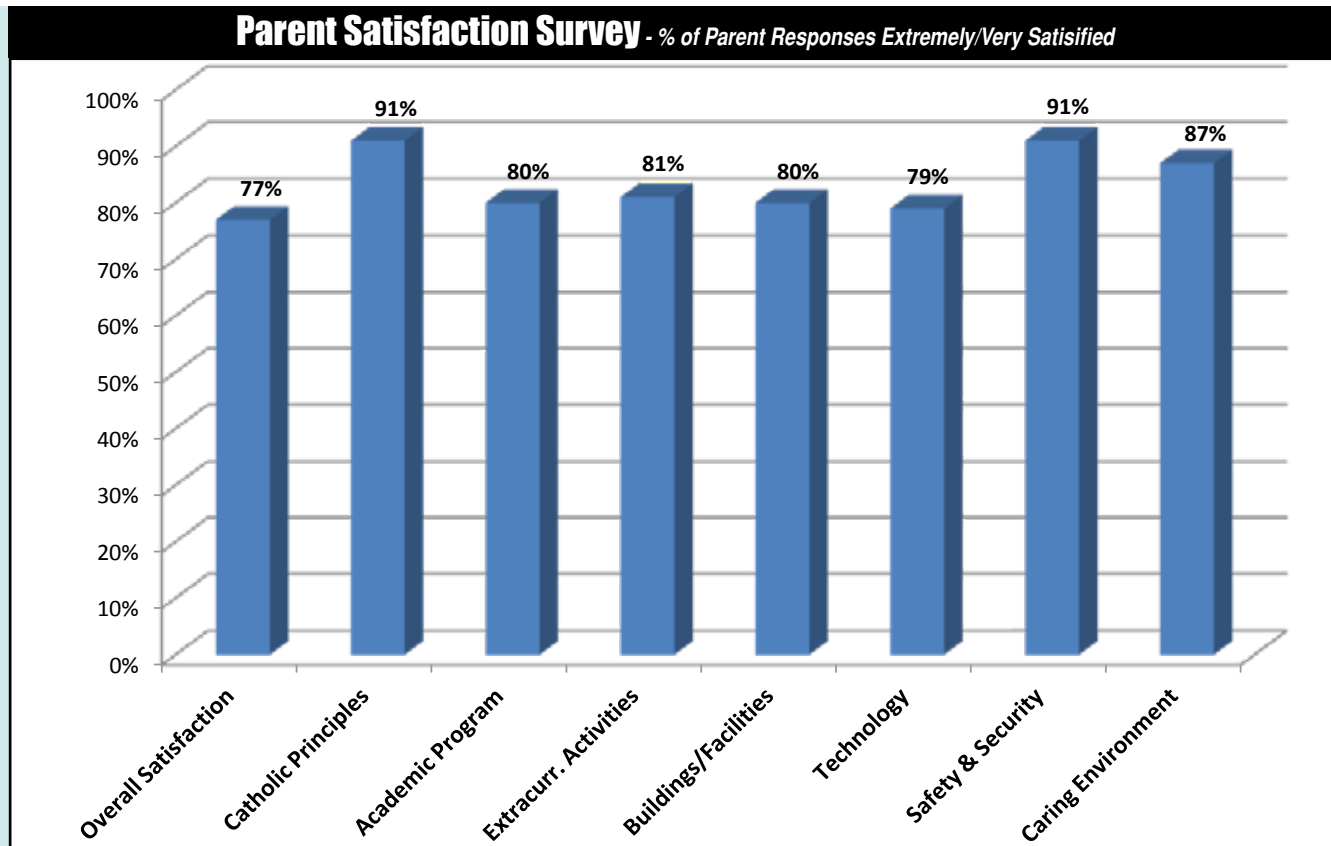
Annual Terra Nova standardized testing scores by 3rd, 5th and 7th grade students provide an objective standard by which quality outcomes may be measured. For the academic year 2010-11, Archdiocese of Louisville schools scored 22-26% above national averages, which involve both public and private institutions. Also of interest is the finding that the average test scores for Jefferson County Catholic schools were the same as results posted by Catholic schools in the other five counties with schools.

Quality outcomes are a key element taken into consideration by the various accrediting bodies responsible for evaluating educational institutions around the country. The Archdiocese of Louisville's school system is accredited by the prestigious AdvancED organization, a distinction achieved by only 15% of Catholic schools nationally.



# Elementary School Data - Parent Satisfaction

## Part II:



Source: Horizon Insight  
"Satisfaction Survey Results" (2010)

## Parent Satisfaction

Perhaps the most important source of quality performance feedback is the parents of elementary school students. In Horizon Insight's 2010 survey, 77% of archdiocesan school parents reported being "Extremely or Very Satisfied" with their children's education. While the 77% positive rating leaves room for improvement, it affirms that more than three-fourths of current school parents strongly support how our Catholic schools perform.

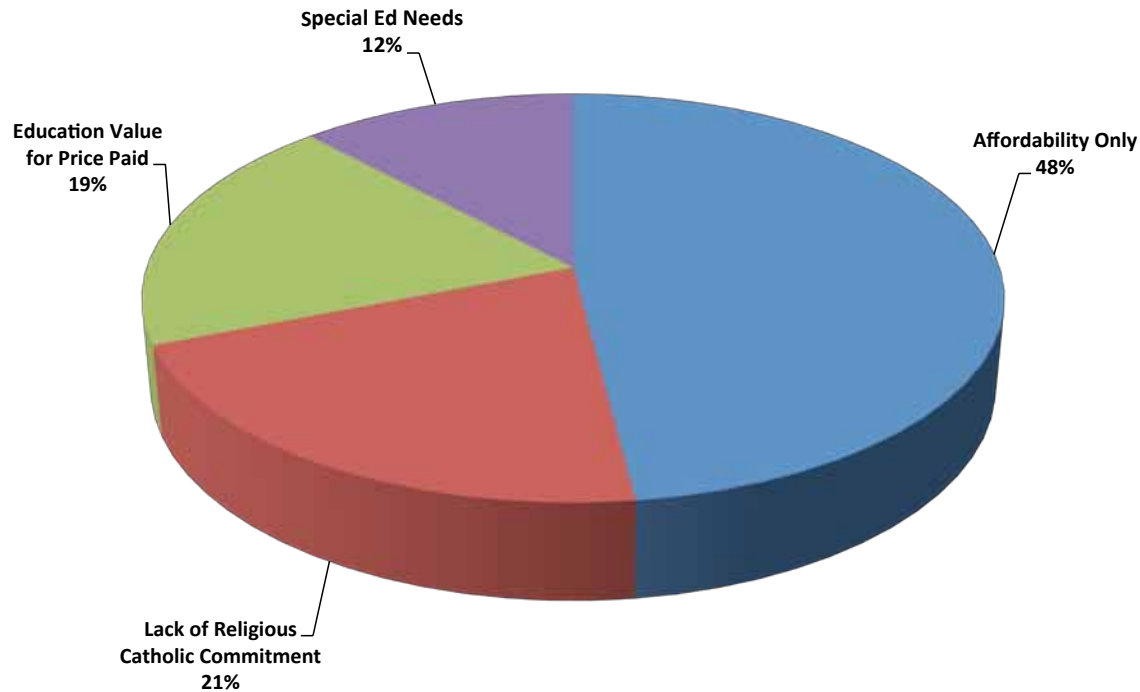
Other areas of measurement include: Catholic Principles; Academic Program; Extracurricular Activities; Facilities; Technology; Safety; and Caring Environment.



# Challenges - Reasons Catholic Families Cite for Not Attending Catholic Schools

## Part III:

Reasons Cited for Not Attending A Catholic School



Source: Horizon Insight "Catholic Education Trends" (2012)

### Reasons Catholic Families Cite for Not Attending Catholic Schools

A particularly unique element of the recent Horizon Insight work was a survey of parents whose children do not attend a Catholic school. Forty-eight percent of registered Catholic families not attending Catholic schools cited affordability as the reason. Another 19% question whether the Catholic education is worth the cost, and 21% said they were not committed enough to the Catholic faith to want to have their children in Catholic schools.

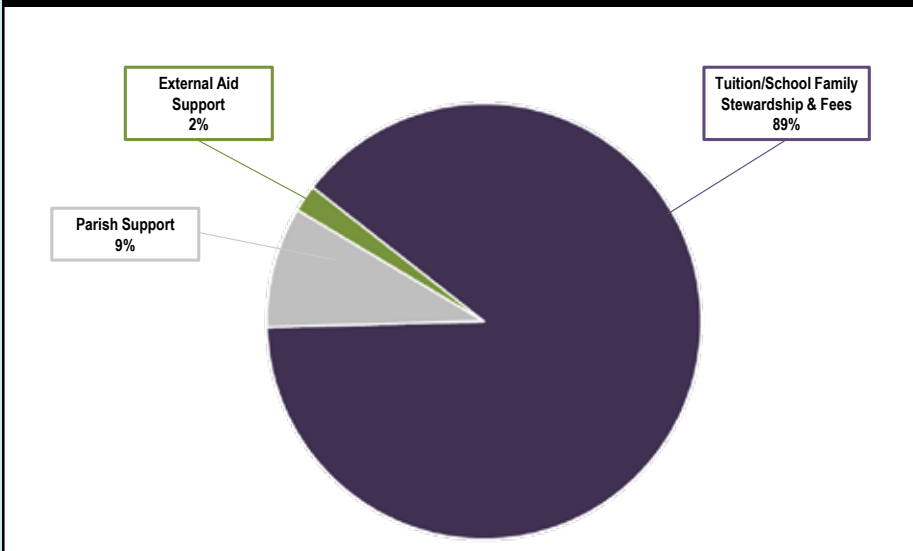




# Challenges - School Finances

## Part III:

**Sources of Income/Financial Support - Catholic Elementary Schools 2010-2011**



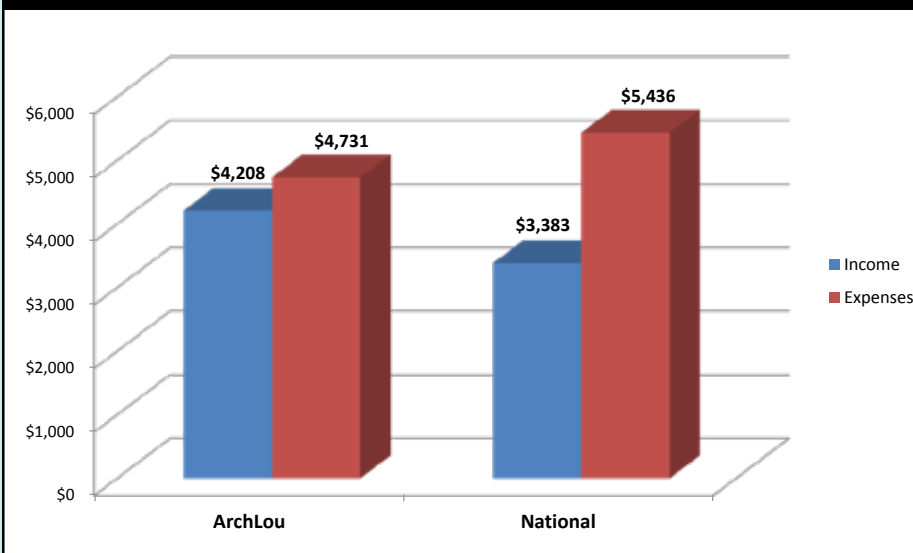
Source: Horizon Insight  
"Catholic Education Trends" (2012)

### School Finances

Using Archdiocese of Louisville financial reports from the 2010-2011 school year, it is estimated that the average per student expense for a Catholic elementary student was \$4,731. The amount paid in tuition, fees, or family stewardship was \$4,208. The shortfall was covered by parish support of more than \$5 million (9%) and external tuition assistance (primarily from the Catholic Education Foundation) of 2%.

Accurate comparisons are difficult to make since not all dioceses and schools report comparable data. However, it is apparent that for the Archdiocese of Louisville schools, the cost per child is lower and the income is higher than the national average.

**Average Income & Expense Per Student - Catholic Schools 2010-2011**

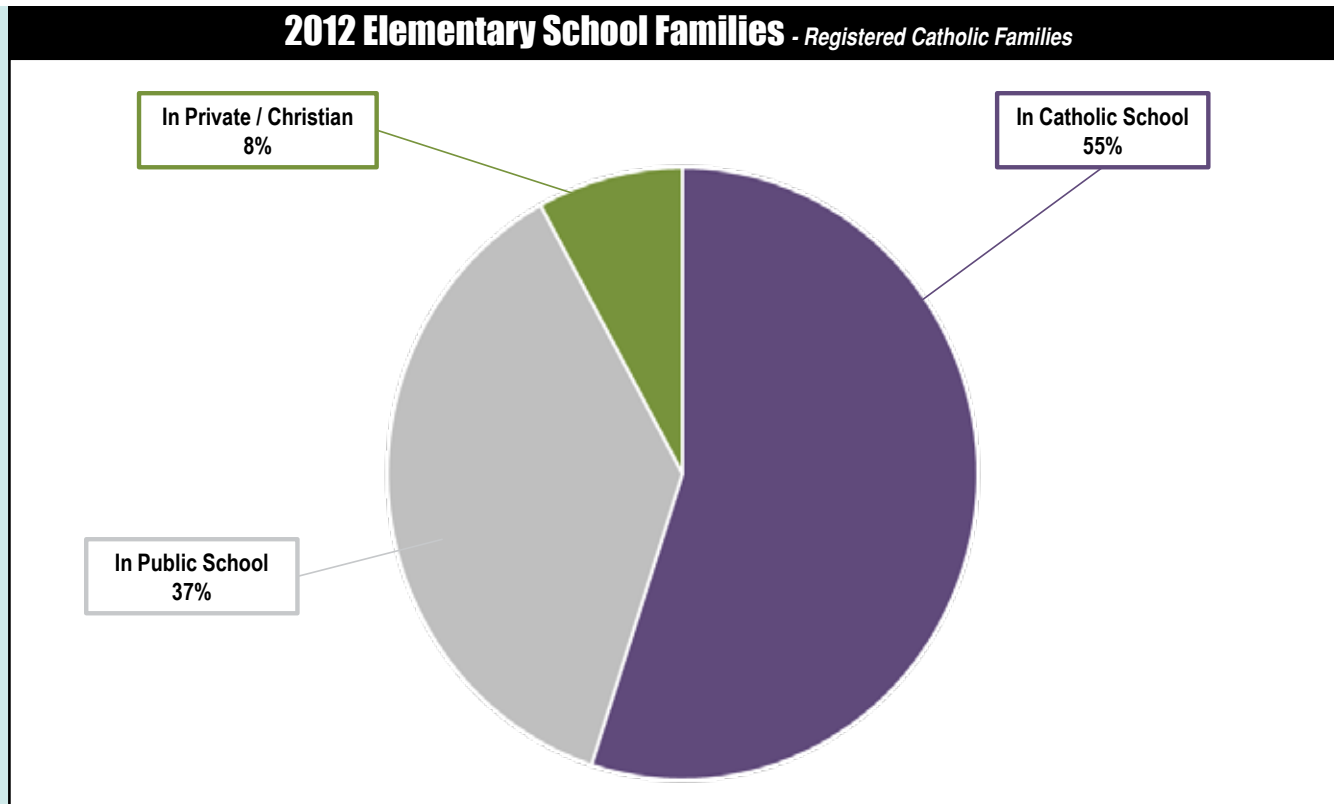


Source: Horizon Insight  
"Catholic Education Trends" (2012)



# Challenges - School-Age Population Trends

## Part III:



Source: Horizon Insight "Catholic Education Trends" (2012)

### School-Age Population Trends

Reports from the Kentucky State Data Center indicate that the school age population in Kentucky, including the counties where the Archdiocese has schools, will generally increase slightly over the next 10-30 years.

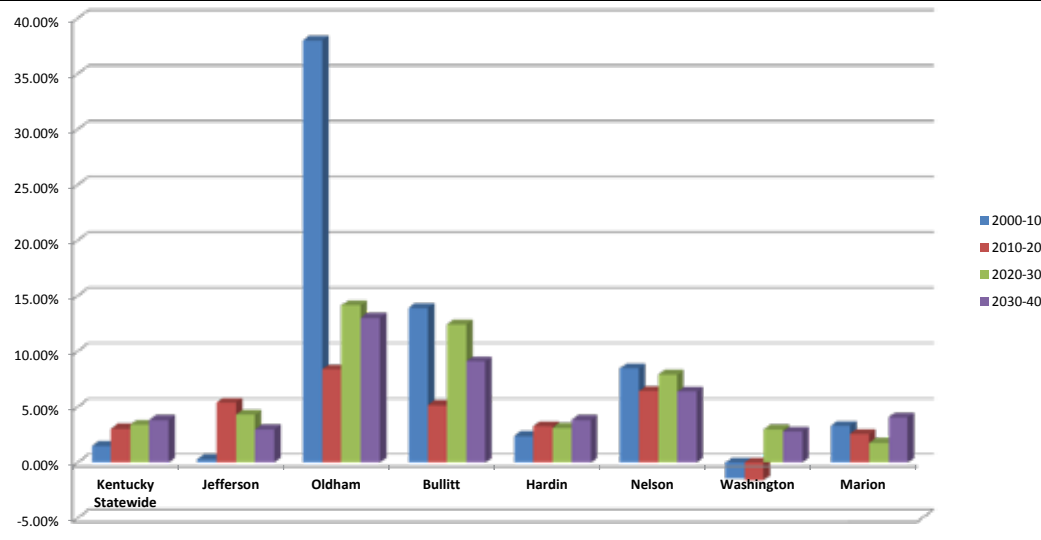
While the population of school-aged children is not predicted to grow substantially, there is opportunity to increase school enrollment from both Catholic families and non-Catholic families. At the present time, only 55% of registered Catholic families enroll their children in Catholic schools.



# Challenges - School-Age Population Trends

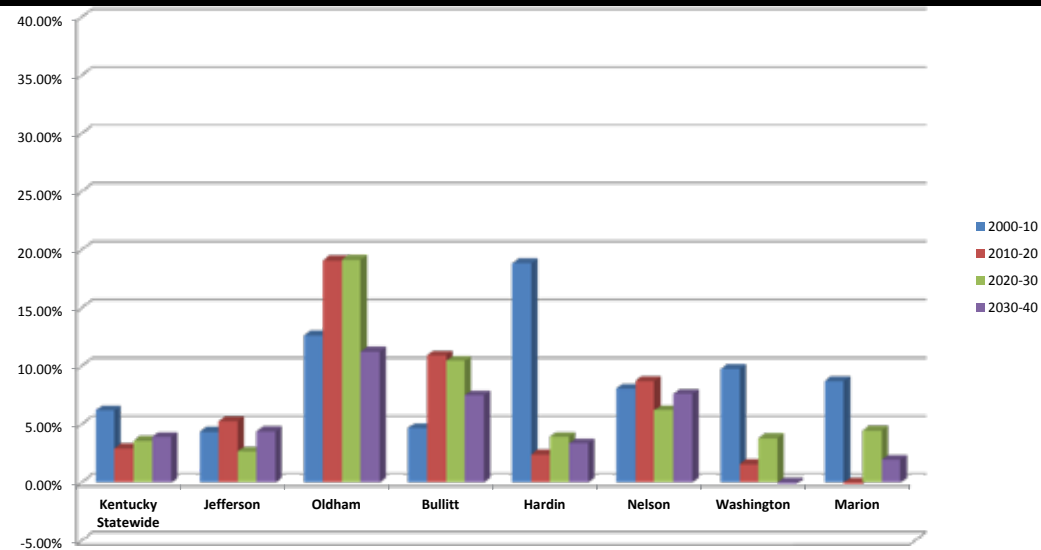
## Part III:

**Census Projections—Percentage Change By Decade - School Age Children (5-14 Years)**



Source: Kentucky State Data Center (Sept. 2011)

**Census Projections—Percentage Change By Decade - Infants/Children (0-4 Years)**



Source: Kentucky State Data Center (Sept. 2011)



# Challenges - Involvement In The Catholic Faith

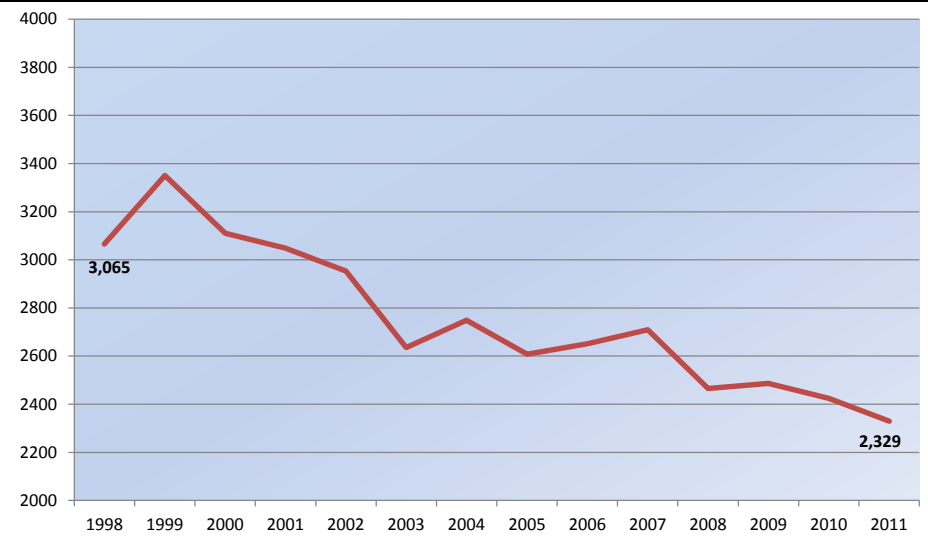
## Part III:

### Involvement in the Catholic Faith

Lack of active involvement or commitment to the Catholic faith is a factor that leads parents not to enroll their children in a Catholic school. The 10-year decline in Catholic school enrollment closely coincides with the Archdiocese's overall decrease in the number of infant or minors being baptized over the past 14 years.

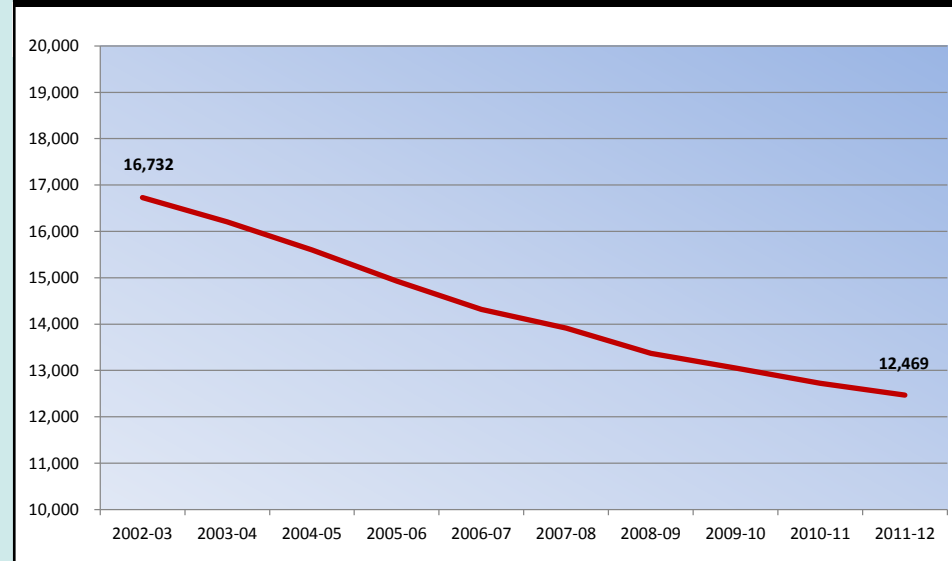
The number of Baptisms of children is a primary predictor of the likely number of First Communion to be celebrated seven years later. Likewise, in this Archdiocese, Confirmation often follows six years later. This pattern indicates the importance of encouraging parents to have their children baptized as an initial step of involving the family in the life of the church. Such involvement increases the likelihood of enrollment in a Catholic school. When charting the baptismal rate in parishes with schools from 1998 to 2011, there appears to be more than a 90% retention based on simple gross numbers.

**Archdiocese of Louisville Infant/Minor Baptisms (1998-2011)**



Source: Annual Kenedy Directory (parish blue reports)

**Catholic Elementary Schools 10-Year Enrollment Trend - K-8 (2003-2012)**

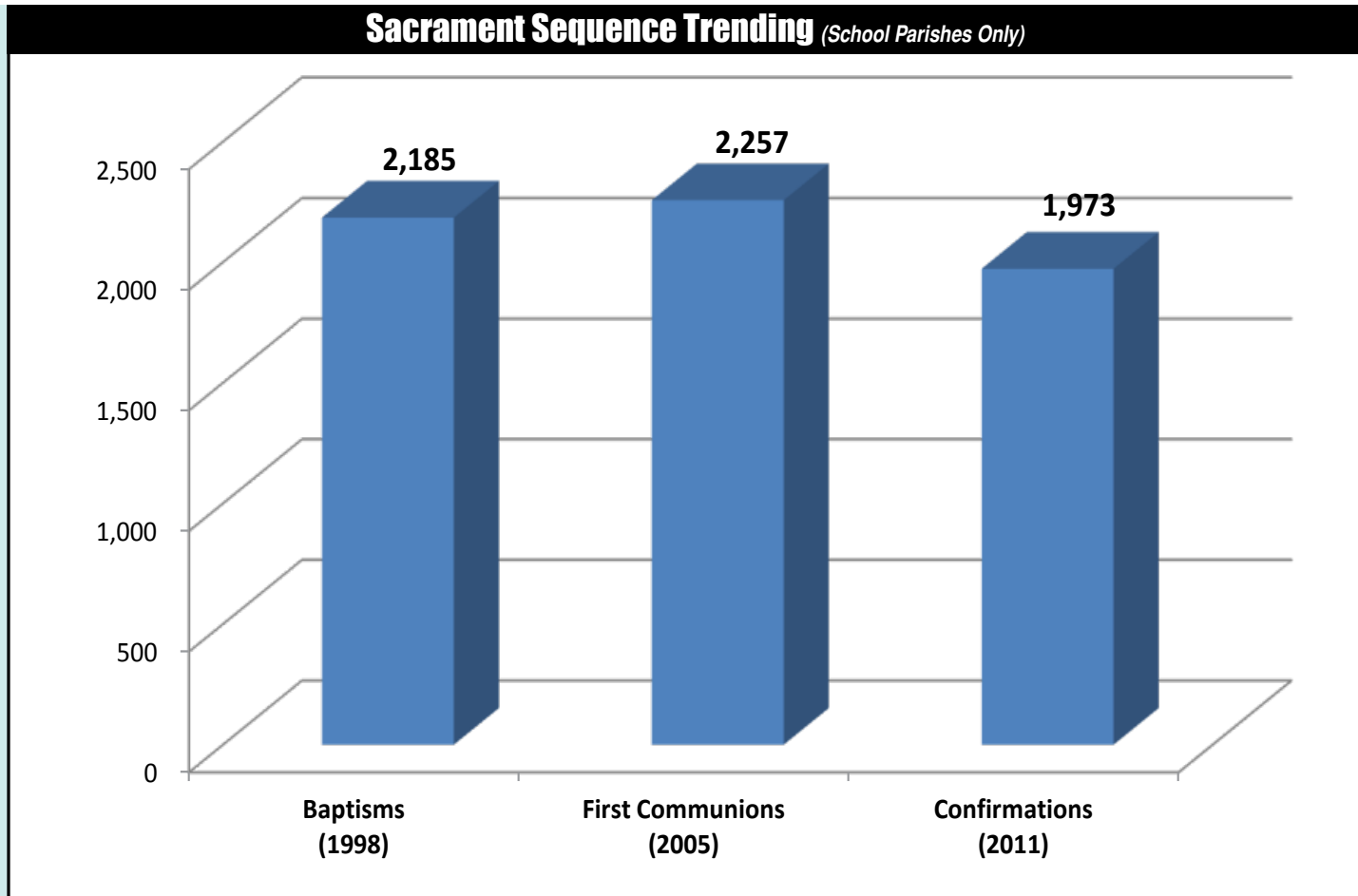


Source: Office of Superintendent of Schools



# Challenges - Involvement in The Catholic Faith

## Part III:



Source: Kenedy Directory (parish blue reports)



# Questions for Consideration

## Part IV:

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- 1.** Pope Benedict XVI has said that providing young people with a sound education in the faith represents the most urgent challenge facing the Catholic community in this country. Where do you think Catholic school education should fit within the priorities of the Church?
- 2.** Research indicates that students attending Catholic schools perform very well on standardized tests and the majority of parents are extremely or very satisfied with many qualities of a Catholic school. What might be done to allow other parents to hear this good news?
- 3.** Increasingly parents are choosing not to have their children baptized. This results in little, if any, involvement with a parish and decreased enrollment in Catholic schools. What can be done to increase parent participation in the church beginning with the baptism of their child?
- 4.** Catholic schools are geographically located within 20 minutes of most people in Jefferson County and within 35 minutes of many others in central Kentucky. How might schools be made more accessible for families who wish to attend?
- 5.** The cost of attending a Catholic school is a challenge for many families; increasing tuition assistance is one answer. Is preserving the opportunity for students to attend a Catholic school enough of a priority that the entire Catholic community would support efforts to provide such assistance?





# 2012

*Catholic Elementary School Report*

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