

THE  
BISHOP  
O'REILLY  
STUDY GROUP  
REPORT

THE WAY FORWARD

A NEW APPROACH

THOMAS A. O'CONNOR, ESQ.,  
CHAIR  
AND  
MORE THAN 500 PARENTS, STUDENTS,  
ALUMNI AND FRIENDS WHO MAKE UP  
THE COMMUNITY OF BISHOP O'REILLY

AUTHORIZED VERSION



**“Raise a cheer O’ Queensmen of**

**Bishop O’Reilly High...**

**Stand up for Alma Mater”**

***The Bishop O’Reilly Alma Mater***

**Community of  
Bishop O'Reilly**

Thomas A. O'Connor, Esq., Chair  
Community of Bishop O'Reilly  
398 Wyoming Avenue  
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Kingston PA 18704

December 11, 2006

Very Rev. Joseph F. Martino, D.D., Hist. E.D.  
Bishop of the Diocese of Scranton  
300 Wyoming Avenue  
Scranton PA 18503

Your Excellency,

We the Community of Bishop O'Reilly present to you our Mission and Vision Statements and plan for the future of the Catholic Education System. In preparing our report we searched God's Word for His direction and guidance. *" . . . I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads you into all truth." John 14:15-17*

We trust His Word. *"Then trust the Lord completely; don't ever trust yourself. In everything you do, put God first, and He will direct you and crown your efforts with success." Proverbs 3:5-6*  
We have been praying for you to make a wise and inspired decision. *"Do not withhold good from those who deserve it when it's in your power to help them." Proverbs 3:27*

Your Excellency we beseech you. *"Be a shepherd of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseer, not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be . . . eager to serve . . . being an example to the flock." 1 Peter 5:2-3*

We respectfully submit our plan for your consideration.

Yours in Christ,

The Community of Bishop O'Reilly

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

As parents, relatives, alumni, and friends of students attending the Bishop  
O'Reilly Junior/Senior High School,  
we are committed to preserving and propagating  
Catholic education in our community.

*“Teach your children in the way they should go and when they are old they  
will not depart from it.” Proverbs 22:6*

## **VISION STATEMENT**

As parents, relatives, alumni, and friends of students attending the Bishop  
O'Reilly educational system,  
we are committed to establishing a distinctly Catholic, academically  
excellent, fiscally sound entity.

Through growing enrollment, we will transform our Catholic education  
system into a viable, perpetual presence. Within this community we will  
teach faith and trust in God and respect for life. We will instill the desire to  
learn. We will encourage strength through prayer. We will empower our  
children to lead through “courage, truth and justice . . .”

- ✚ We will run a consolidated Catholic High School System with the merger of Bishop O'Reilly and Seton Catholic High Schools. This will include junior high grades 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> presently housed in Bishop O'Reilly.
  
- ✚ We will reduce the existing parish subsidies 25% over 5 years. We will operate on a fiscally sound, go forward basis.<sup>I</sup>
  
- ✚ In order to provide sufficient operating revenues, we will reintroduce a negotiated tuition program which was very successful in previous years. This will make a Catholic education affordable for all families in our large demographic area.
  
- ✚ We will develop a long range plan for capital improvements and maintenance of our facilities. Our committee on physical plants has determined that no major improvements are necessary.<sup>II</sup>

✠ We will maintain the academically excellent curriculum and standards which are ranked among the highest in the area.<sup>III</sup> We will also expand our current Individual Instruction Program which is staffed by caring, dedicated educators and utilizes our established unique and comfortable atmosphere.

✠ We request reintroduction of a Catholic religious presence in the school.<sup>IV</sup>

✠ We will reorganize the governance of the school to provide a strong foundation for the future operation of this Catholic School System.

✠ We will expand and enhance extra curricular programs and activities throughout the school including Arts and Athletics.<sup>V</sup>

✠ We will utilize vast amounts of expertise and talent available from parents, alumni, and friends who comprise the Community of Bishop O'Reilly. Committees are already in place and are tapping into these resources.

✠ We are reorganizing parent and alumni associations to provide additional support for finances, academics, operations, and development.

✠ Finally, we will make the Bishop O'Reilly Education System a success story for the Diocese of Scranton, which will be used as a model for Catholic school systems throughout America.

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<sup>I</sup> AS OUTLINED BY COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

<sup>II</sup> AS OUTLINED BY COMMITTEE ON PHYSICAL PLANT

<sup>III</sup> AS OUTLINED BY COMMITTEE ON ACADEMICS

<sup>IV</sup> AS OUTLINED BY COMMITTEE ON RELIGIOUS LIFE

<sup>V</sup> AS OUTLINED BY COMMITTEE ON EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS



“Courage, Truth and Justice, these will

be our battle cry, so live on in glory,

O’ Bishop O’Reilly High”

*The Bishop O’Reilly Alma Mater*