



# Diocese of Colorado Springs

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To our Divine Redeemer Family,

As Bishop of this diocese - I unite my grief to your pastor's sorrow in making this difficult announcement. There is no easy way to announce the closing of a Catholic school, especially one as beloved as Divine Redeemer.

The financial difficulties identified by your pastor and your parish's finance experts present a daunting set of challenges as it pertains to sustaining school operations. The forecast rapid drain on the parish's limited financial reserves makes this an untenable stewardship challenge.

That's the difficult part, the part that we will all grieve until our individual grief runs its course. This experience calls to mind my own memory of when my Catholic grade school was closed after my 2nd grade year. That decision was made and announced in the month of May – only two months before I was supposed to enter 3rd grade. It was certainly difficult for a 2nd grader to understand the complexities of this kind of decision. I could not fully understand what was happening. The only thing that makes this current decision a bit more straightforward is the sense of clarity amongst parish and diocesan leaders that the school must close because of very serious financial difficulties.

For almost 70 years Divine Redeemer Catholic School has served its parish and community with exceptional grace and faithfulness. Divine Redeemer School accomplished the mission put before it all those years ago. Now it is apparent – especially with the changing demographics of our city's population – that this mission has been fulfilled. The ending of this phase of God's plan for Divine Redeemer School does nothing to diminish the many years of faithful service the school provided to thousands of students and their families.

This is a time of grief and sorrow for many of us. At the same time, I know that our faith calls us to be grateful for the many good things that God has done in and through Divine Redeemer School. I simply ask you to pray for each other, for your pastor and parish & school leadership and for the families affected by this decision. Please be assured of my prayers.

In Christ,

+ James R. Golka

Most Rev. James R. Golka