



THE FEDERATION OF CATHOLIC TEACHERS

OPEIU - LOCAL 153 AFL-CIO

May 5, 2015

Dear Parents of Catholic School Children,

After nearly 20 negotiation sessions spanning over a year, the Federation of Catholic Teachers has decided to strike. **We have decided to strike because representatives of the Association of Catholic Schools threatened that if teachers receive wage increases, they would have to close schools.** This statement violates the teachers' rights and we are striking over their violation of the law. This matter has been reported throughout the media and charges have been filed with the appropriate agencies.

Another reason for our strike is to bring attention to this issue and to try to save schools from being closed. **By striking, we hope to bring attention and public scrutiny to the threat to close schools. We are hoping that you, as parents of Catholic school children, will support and become part of our efforts to save schools.**

On a related subject, just prior to the negotiations, the Archdiocese restructured the school system affecting many schools. **This process, called regionalization, comes at a cost of tens of thousands of dollars of new administrative overhead.** As part of this process, the administration closed over fifty schools in the last few years. **Now some of those schools are being rented out and are generating new income to the system.**

All of these actions affect the teacher, the students and ultimately you, the parent. **So we strike to save our schools and we ask you, the parents, to join us in the fight to save our Catholic schools.**

Please help us by contacting Cardinal Timothy Dolan at 212-371-1000 x 3000. Ask him to heed Pope Francis' message, "a worker deserves a fair wage."

Please contact Dr. Timothy McNiff at 212-371-1000 x 2802. Tell him that what he is doing is NOT helping our Catholic School System. Please let him know that the teachers should be treated fairly, they deserve a fair wage increase, and they have your full support.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Julia Pignataro
President