

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am a member of the St. Matthew School Advisory council.

St. Matthew parish has long been blessed with an outstanding school, staffed by many talented and dedicated people. The Diocese of Metuchen, as a result of the Meitler Study, has requested that each school establish a School Advisory Council. Many of you have read bulletin announcements about the purpose of a school advisory council and have seen our chart in the vestibule of the church.

Our School Advisory Council has been in formation since the summer and is now ready to tackle our first task – the development of a three-year strategic plan for St. Matthew School to continue to ensure that we provide our students with an outstanding academic foundation in a Catholic environment. The plan will consist of goals and objectives that fall into eight categories – Enrollment, Governance, Curriculum & Staffing, Finance, Marketing & Development, School in the Community, Catholic Identity and Buildings & Grounds.

We are inviting you to participate in a focus group session on Tuesday, December 9, 2008 in the school cafeteria. We will begin at 7:00 pm and end at 8:30. At this meeting, we will divide into groups, facilitated by a council member, to discuss the eight areas. We hope to generate ideas and information that will assist us in writing the strategic plan.

In the pews are forms for you to complete. Please let us know your first and second choice for a discussion group. A council member will contact you to confirm your choice. Everyone is welcome – whether or not you have children in the school. Kindly leave the form in the basket in the vestibule of the church. I will be there should you have any questions.

Thank you in advance for sharing your ideas to position our school for the future.