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For Immediate Release

TBD

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ARCHDIOCESE ANNOUNCES EXPANSION OF PROGRAM TO SERVE CHILDREN WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES

The Archdiocese of Baltimore will expand its PRIDE (Pupils Receiving Inclusive Diversified Education) program for the coming school year as the number of participating schools increases from one to three. St. Mark, Catonsville and St. John Regional Catholic School, Frederick will adopt the program representing the first expansion of PRIDE, a key recommendation in the 2010 *Strategic Plan for Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of Baltimore*. Currently, the PRIDE program serves students at St. Clement Mary Hofbauer School in Rosedale.

The PRIDE program, launched in 1994, serves children in grades K-8 who have been diagnosed with mild to moderate learning disabilities. It is taught by certified special education teachers who provide specialized instruction in language arts and math coupled with inclusion in general education classes within the larger student body. PRIDE allows the community as a whole to learn more about the diversity of learners and learning styles and to appreciate the gifts and talents of all students.

“PRIDE serves the mission of Catholic schools to educate the whole child, affirm their unique gifts, and nurture them to reach their full potential,” Superintendent Dr. Barbara McGraw Edmondson said.

The Archdiocese of Baltimore Catholic Schools includes 49 elementary/middle schools and 20 Catholic high schools serving 27,118 students. Catholic elementary and middle school students consistently score in the top third in the nation on standardized tests. High schools graduate 99% of students and 98% of students go on to attend college. Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Baltimore are located in Baltimore city and the following counties: Allegany, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, and Washington. To learn more about an Archdiocese of Baltimore Catholic school, call 1-800-5-CATHOLIC or visit www.archbalt.org/schools.