



THE DIOCESE OF CHARLESTON

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Diocese of Charleston Catholic Schools Awarded District Accreditation

(CHARLESTON, SC – July 26, 2012) – The Diocese of Charleston has been granted District Accreditation from the AdvancED Accreditation Commission, the national commission that confers the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI) accreditation seal. This means that all diocesan Catholic schools in South Carolina are accredited and recognized across the nation as a quality school system.

The accreditation process involves three ongoing components: 1) meeting high quality standards; 2) implementing a continuous process of improvement; and 3) engaging in quality assurance through internal and external review. The diocese's accreditation is for a five year term with regular monitoring of progress and reporting occurring during the term.

Approximately 6,500 students attend the 31 now accredited Catholic elementary schools and diocesan and private high schools in South Carolina. "District Accreditation as conferred by the AdvancED Accreditation Commission provides the Diocese of Charleston a nationally-recognized mark of quality," said Sister Pamela Smith, SSCM, Secretary of Education. "It demonstrates our commitment to excellence, our openness to external review and feedback, and our desire to be the best we can be on behalf of the students we serve."

Dr. Mark Elgart, President/CEO of AdvancED, stated, "District Accreditation is a rigorous process that focuses the entire school system on the primary goal of creating lifelong learners. The Diocese of Charleston is to be commended for engaging in this process and demonstrating a commitment to continuous improvement."

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Parents and interested community members can learn more about the accreditation process at

www.advanc-ed.org.

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About the Diocese of Charleston

The Catholic Diocese of Charleston comprises the entire state of South Carolina with Charleston as its See city. Founded in 1820 by Pope Pius VII, it is one of the oldest Catholic dioceses in the United States.

About AdvancED and SACS CASI

Dedicated to advancing excellence in education through accreditation, research, and professional services, AdvancED is the world's largest education community, serving and engaging over 27,000 public and private schools and districts in 69 countries and serving nearly 16 million students. SACS CASI is a non-governmental, voluntary agency that accredits nearly 13,000 public and non-public institutions throughout the world.