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PRESS RELEASE

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Organizational changes planned for St. Michael, Holy Trinity, and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Schools to better serve students, parents and the community

(Myrtle Beach, SC) – As the presence of the Catholic Church continues to grow in the Grand Strand and to best serve the population, there are changes being made to several area Catholic schools. St. Michael and Holy Trinity Catholic Schools will discontinue serving some middle school students. These students can attend the newly developed middle school at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School, or they can attend St. Andrew Catholic School whose organizational structure will remain the same.

Starting in the fall, St. Michael will serve K-4 through grade 6; Holy Trinity will serve K-3 through grade 5. Students in each middle school – 7 - 8 at St. Michael and 6 - 8 at Holy Trinity – will be given the opportunity to attend St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School or St. Andrew Catholic School. Moreover, when both elementary schools open their doors in August, they will augment their existing K-4 program by adding a First Steps program for those families that are eligible.

By adding additional grades to Seton Catholic, middle school students will be able to learn in a challenging, Catholic environment while having the opportunity to participate in advanced academic classes, the arts, and extra-curricular activities that St. Michael and Holy Trinity Catholic Schools cannot offer due to their small sizes. Transportation will be provided to those St. Michael and Holy Trinity students who choose to attend Seton Catholic. Students who choose to continue their education at St. Andrew Catholic School will receive the same quality kindergarten through 8th grade education and co-curricular opportunities for which the school is known.

This reorganization will result in the elimination of certain jobs within St. Michael and Holy Trinity; however, these faculty and staff members will have the opportunity to apply for teaching positions in other Catholic schools – including the expanded staff at Seton Catholic. “I want to express my gratitude to these beloved teachers and staff members who have given so much of themselves to both of these schools’ communities,” said Sandra Leatherwood, superintendent of Catholic schools.

This restructuring will assist all Catholic schools in moving toward an even stronger and more viable future both academically and financially as a system of schools.

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