

March 11, 2014

Dear Principals,

I am writing to ask your help in assessing our communications efforts in the Catholic Diocese of Richmond. Below, please find a link to a **short communications survey** I ask you to **complete** by the **Tuesday, April 8th deadline**, and to distribute widely among people in your school, via your school website, newsletter and social media.

<http://survey.richmonddiocese.org/limesurvey/index.php?sid=87761&lang=en>

In September, speaking before the *Plenary Assembly of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications*, our Holy Father, Pope Francis, pondered the critical role communications has in spreading the faith of the Church. "In every situation," he said, "beyond technological considerations, I believe that **the goal is to understand how to enter into dialogue with the men and women of today, in order to appreciate their desires, their doubts, and their hopes.**"

Entering into dialogue – re-proposing the Gospel - with parishioners, fellow Catholics, lapsed Catholics and the community-at-large are key components of the New Evangelization which the Church universal and our Diocese are undertaking. This is apparent in the pastoral plan for evangelization - "*Encounter the Joy of the Gospel and Set the World Ablaze*" – that we released this year on the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord.

Another aspect of this New Evangelization effort is assessing how we as a Diocese communicate with our pastors, parishes, parishioners, non-practicing Catholics and various ministries. This survey is a first step in securing feedback so we may know where our efforts succeed, and where they fall short. Please take a few moments to complete the questionnaire, and offer any constructive input as to how I, your Bishop, as well as our diocesan communications office and Pastoral Center staff can better inform, listen and respond to your needs.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Most Rev. Francis X. DiLorenzo

Bishop, Catholic Diocese of Richmond