



August 21, 2020

John Cahill
Chancellor
Archdiocese of New York
1011 First Avenue
New York, NY 10022

Joseph Rosenberg
Executive Director
Catholic Community Relations Council
1011 First Avenue
New York, NY 10022

Dear Chancellor Cahill and Executive Director Rosenberg:

We are writing to express our disappointment upon hearing that Our Lady of Pompeii School, Corpus Christi School, and other Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of New York will not be reopening as a result of financial issues and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. We request that the Archdiocese of New York confirm that all efforts were made to consult with parents to address fundraising concerns and attendance issues at all schools, especially Our Lady of Pompeii School and the Corpus Christi School, before coming to this decision which affects thousands of students and hundreds of staff.

Our understanding is that parents have raised a great deal of money for Our Lady of Pompeii School in particular, and those efforts and funds are now for naught. We urge the Archdiocese to reconsider the closing of this school, and request a follow-up meeting with us and parents from Our Lady of Pompeii to discuss alternatives to closure.

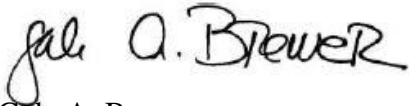
We also request that the Archdiocese of New York provide a list of all owned properties, including vacant churches and lots, which will not be in use for the foreseeable future, and a commitment not to sell these spaces to private entities. We request that the Archdiocese dedicate these spaces for New York City public school use.

As you know, New York City public schools plan to offer blended learning – a hybrid of in-person and remote virtual learning – for public school students this fall. The NYC Department of Education (DOE) and School Construction Authority (SCA) are in need of outdoor and indoor spaces to serve as classroom/instructional spaces, early childhood education spaces, after school centers, and spaces for recreational activities in order to help ensure safety and proper social distancing for children, teachers, and staff.

With the list of vacant properties, we can all work together to help address education challenges for as many children as possible during this pandemic.

Thank you for your timely attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Gale A. Brewer
Manhattan Borough President



Jerrold Nadler
Congressmember, 10th Congressional District



Brad Hoylman
NYS Senator, 27th District



Deborah J. Glick
NYS Assemblymember, 66th District



Corey Johnson
NYC Councilmember, Speaker



Margaret Chin
NYC Councilmember, Council District 1



Carlina Rivera
NYC Councilmember, Council District 2