

What it “should” look like **BEFORE** any “closure”:

- 1) Given that “unceasing prayer” and “evangelization” were the published, primary goals of ATN, should they start with “public” prayer about any potential “closure” issue, and “evangelize” to those affected about the problem(s) causing the potential need for any future closure?
- 2) Clearly identify and publish, BY NAME, all individuals that have any decision-making “authority” in any closure decision (The “**WHO**”).
- 3) Clearly identify and publish, ALL “objective criteria” or standards by which any such closure will be measured. That would include all Church Authority and Canon Law involved (the “**WHAT**”).
- 4) BEFORE any decisions are made (or sent to the Archdiocese itself), commit to at least one public meeting AFTER putting the “necessary reasons” for closure in writing (i.e. “our parish school should close because it has an annual funding shortfall of ‘x’ or has only ‘y’ number of students committed for next year. Then everyone would be operating from the same, published information, rather than confusion or rumor about exactly what the “problem” is that is trying to be solved (the “**WHERE**” and “**WHEN**”).
- 5) Allow public meetings, on parish grounds, to discuss all information published in numbers 2-4 above, again BEFORE any actual final decision(s) are made.
- 6) Allow parishioners or affected parties (i.e. Potentially school parents who are not parishioners, school teachers or School Board members, etc.) to offer solutions that comply with and address the factual, objective and published information from numbers 2-4 above.
- 7) Publish information regarding previous “closures” in the Archdiocese of St. Louis (especially those done because of ATN recently), and precisely what the “before” and “after” data shows. This would include true and objective financial figures, including the continuing cost of empty school buildings to the parish. This should also include aggregate data on where the displaced students from such closures had to go (for example, in the closure of the school at Good Shepherd parish in Hillsboro, MO; the “officials” stated that there was room for all such displaced students to go to “other” catholic schools; However, they know that only 25% of such students ultimately went to another catholic school; Just be honest about where such displaced students wind up going, and what “catechism” they are then receiving in their new, public school environment, etc.).
- 8) BEFORE implementing any closure, all decision-makers should state IN WRITING precisely how they believe any such closure will advance the only mission of Holy Mother Church: namely, the salvation of souls. IF you are a canonical pastor (or such decision-maker), then you SHOULD be willing to put your reasoning in writing, and precisely how you believe it makes us better, helps us to evangelize, helps increase the salvation of souls. Any such decision-makers should be willing to SIGN THEIR NAME to all of the reasoning for any such “closure” decision.
- 9) The Catholic Church is not a man-made institution existing solely in this natural world, but is the supernaturally inspired and guided Church, founded by Jesus Christ Himself (Truth Himself). The very least we should expect (and accept) of our earthly leaders is truth and transparency. Can any honest, Show-Me State Catholic make a credible argument that children of the Light should not live up to these standards, publicly, in any decision of “closure” on behalf of God’s Church?; and lastly
- 10) Shouldn’t we end in prayer also, just as we began. Shouldn’t we have “public” prayer together, including praying for our Church leaders, and these types of decisions? Shouldn’t we give all Glory to God for His Church, and acknowledging that “all things are possible, through Christ.”