

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 4, 2025

Saint Dominic Regional High School Board Files Canon Law Appeal with Diocese
Petition to Bishop Ruggieri Requests Reversal of High School Closure Decision

Auburn, Maine — Sean Andrews has taken formal action in a continued effort to preserve and restore the school's high school grades (9–12). Today, Canon Lawyers submitted a formal petition to Bishop James Ruggieri, asserting that the Diocese of Portland's March 28 decision to close the high school violated provisions of canon law and was made without adequate consultation.

“This petition marks a critical step in our fight to restore our beloved high school,” said Sean Andrews, Interim Chair of the Saint Dominic Board. “Canon lawyers have formally petitioned Bishop Ruggieri—showing that the March 28 closure announcement breached canon law and ignored essential consultation with parents, alumni, and the Presbyteral Council.”

The petition respectfully calls on Bishop Ruggieri to:

Revoke his unilateral decision to close grades 9–12, issue a proper canonical decree allowing Saint Dominic High School to reopen, and engage in a good-faith dialogue with the Board regarding the formation of a lay-led association that would ensure the school continues to operate as a faithful, vibrant Catholic institution.

This submission represents the Board's final appeal at the diocesan level before bringing the case to the Vatican's Dicastery for Catholic Education in Rome.

“We remain united, hopeful, and ready to prove how much our high school means to generations of students and the entire Lewiston–Auburn community,” Andrews added. “We urge the Diocese to join us in finding a faithful and constructive path forward. Together, we can protect the St. Dominic legacy.”