

Catholic school deadline passes

By K.C. MYERS
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HYANNIS - A flurry of activity surrounded Pope John Paul II High School yesterday, but no one would say whether the first Catholic high school on Cape Cod will open next September.

Yesterday was the deadline set by the Fall River Diocese for a group of volunteers to raise \$5 million in order to open the school by next fall.

The diocese imposed the fundraising deadline in September.

If volunteers couldn't raise the full \$5 million by Dec. 1, the opening of the high school would have to wait until September 2007, according to the agreement between the school

founders and the diocese.

The agreement states that the diocese would eventually take over management and ownership of the school.

As of Monday, the volunteers had raised \$4.7 million. Yesterday, the Rev. Thomas A. Frechette, pastor of St. Francis Xavier Church in Hyannis, said the group did raise the entire \$5 million.

He said he did not know why there was no announcement on the school's opening.

Yesterday, Douglas Crabtree, president of Pope John Paul II High School, and Mark Boudreau, the spokesman, did not answer repeated phone calls left at their homes and offices.



KEVIN MINGORA FILE PHOTO/Cape Cod Times

A total of \$3 million was raised to purchase the former Barnstable Grade 5 building in August.

Crabtree's secretary said he was in a late meeting.

Also, the diocese did not release any information. Spokesman John Kearns said the superintendent of the diocese schools was in a meeting yesterday.

Following a fundraising effort, a group of parents and other supporters of Catholic education raised \$3 million to purchase the former Barnstable Grade 5 building in August.

Major donations include \$2

million from Frank Ward of Osterville, \$300,000 from the Knights of Columbus Council No. 2525, and \$250,000 from Peter Lynch of Fidelity Investments.

An estimated 116,000 Catholics live on Cape Cod, according to the Fall River Diocese.

That's nearly half the year-round population.

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