

# Catholic school to open in 2007

■ Fundraisers fall just short of \$5 million goal set by the diocese for the parochial high school to open in 2006.

By **ERIC WILLIAMS**  
STAFF WRITER

**HYANNIS** — The Cape's first Catholic high school will open in 2007, a year later than initially hoped.

Fundraisers for the project said last night that they had fallen just short of the \$5 million required by the Fall River Diocese by Dec. 1.

A joint statement released last night by the Pope John Paul II

High School Group and the Fall River Diocese states: "In light of the fundraising result and, perhaps more importantly, in light of the desire of both the Group and the Diocese that the school begin on a firm foundation, it is the consensus of representatives of both parties that the high school be opened in September 2007."

Mark Boudreau, spokesman for Pope John Paul II High School, said last night that volunteer fundraisers had come close to raising the \$5 million and were verifying pledges. "It's an emotional time," he said. "We're all running on about three hours of sleep a night."

Yesterday, before the decision to push back the start date of the school had been made, Boudreau

described a beat-the-clock fundraising frenzy.

"We're in mountains of paperwork, and the diocese is saying, 'What have you got? How come you're not showing us anything?' And we are apologizing to the diocese for not getting everything ready," said Boudreau. "We've got so many people involved, we've got paperwork coming in, we've got pledges that we thought we had, we've got pledges that we didn't think we had, and we're trying to verify every pledge before we go out publicly and say when we're going to open."

Uncertainty about the opening date for the high school led to a last-minute cancelation of a placement exam at the facility, which

had been scheduled for today.

About 50 people had preregistered for the placement exam, said Robert Deburro, headmaster of St. Francis Xavier Preparatory School, a Catholic middle school in Hyannis. The placement exam is now scheduled for Dec. 2, 2006, at Pope John Paul II High School.

Officials said the additional year of preparation will be used to develop an educational program designed to attract students. Fundraising efforts will continue toward the project's overall goal of \$10 million.

*Staff writer K.C. Myers contributed to this story. Eric Williams can be reached at ewilliams@capecodonline.com.*