



**MOST REVEREND JOSEPH R. KOPACZ, D.D., PH.D.**  
CATHOLIC DIOCESE *of* JACKSON

October 7, 2025

Deborah Nickson  
Office of City Clerk of Vicksburg  
1401 Walnut Street  
Vicksburg, MS 39180

RE: REQUEST FOR A WAIVER OF FEES (Permit Fees)— New Construction of a  
Gymnasium for Vicksburg Catholic Schools, 2101 Clay Street, Vicksburg, MS

Dear Deborah Nickson,

I am writing on behalf of Vicksburg Catholic School requesting a waiver of fees pursuant to the Vicksburg Code of Ordinances, Section 6-8 Waiver of Fees.

The Catholic Diocese of Jackson and Vicksburg Catholic School are ready to construct a new Multi-Purpose Performing Arts and Athletic Complex located at 2101 Clay Street with a value of over \$8M dollars. The expansion of the new Multi-Purpose Performing Arts and Athletic Complex to Vicksburg Catholic School Campus will represents a significant investment in the educational, cultural, and economic future of our city. Vicksburg Catholic School will improve the quality of education and increase the attendance of students which will create additional job openings for more teachers and staff.

Academically, we remain a leader. An impressive thirty percent of our senior class scored 30 or higher on the ACT, reflecting the strength of our college preparatory program. We continue to maintain a 100% graduation rate, with each student graduating prepared to thrive beyond high school. Each year, our seniors earn an average of over \$4 million in scholarship offers, demonstrating both the diligence of our students and the dedication of our exceptional faculty. At Vicksburg Catholic School, academic achievement is not merely a goal—it is a long-standing tradition.

The value of Catholic education extends beyond our student body. Our school contributes meaningfully to the social and economic vitality of Vicksburg by preparing future leaders who are academically strong, ethically grounded, and civically engaged. Unlike larger metropolitan areas,

educational options in our community are limited. For families, employers, and industry partners seeking stability, excellence, and opportunity, Vicksburg Catholic School stands as a pillar of support and a source of pride.

This initiative is not solely about education—it is about infrastructure. It represents an investment in the next generation of skilled, value-driven workers and community members who will contribute to the long-term prosperity of Vicksburg. We know a more educated population fosters more human and social capital which is a catalyst for economic growth. Furthermore, studies show that higher graduation rates can lead to lower crime related expenses. Higher educational attainment is linked to lower unemployment rates and more stable employment opportunities. The new complex will serve as a multi-use facility supporting academic programming, fine arts, and athletic development, while also providing space for community gatherings and events.

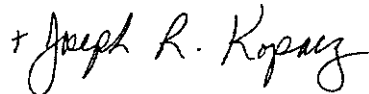
For these reasons, we respectfully request that the City of Vicksburg consider waiving the associated building permit fees. Such a gesture would serve as a tangible demonstration of the City's continued commitment to education, youth development, and the collaborative growth of our community.

We are deeply grateful for your ongoing support of local education and for your consideration of this request.

The construction documents for the new multi-purpose performing arts and athletic complex have been submitted to the City of Vicksburg for review.

We request this proposal be added to the agenda of the next meeting of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Joseph R. Kopacz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross at the beginning.

Most Reverend Joseph R. Kopacz  
Bishop of Jackson

cc. Jeff Richardson, Director, Office of Community Development  
Kim Nailor, Esq, Attorney for the City of Vicksburg