

MEMORANDUM

To: Pastors, Principals and Business Managers
From: Barbara Henderson
Date: January 16, 2009

RE: 10-15 Passenger Vans

Recently I was called regarding the purchase of a 15 passenger van. This is a reprint of a memo I sent out to all parishes and schools on September 25, 2003. The information contained in this memo is still in force and with the changes in pastors and bookkeepers over the years, bears sending out again.

Effective July 1, 2004 Virginia Surety Insurance Company with managing agency Catholic Mutual will not be insuring 10-15 passenger vans for any use other than transportation of cargo. In December 2001, a memorandum was sent stating that these vans could be used only for transporting adults and/or cargo. The NTSB has now changed its position to say that these vans are not safe for the transportation of anything other than cargo. These vans are, in fact, nothing more than cargo vans into which seats have been placed.

If your parish owns one of these vans three choices are available to you over the next nine months. The van may be sold, traded or converted to a cargo van by permanently removing the seats.

To help parishes and schools provide a safe alternative to 10-15 passenger vans, Catholic Mutual has partnered with Collins Industries, Inc. and negotiated prices on small buses. Attached is a flyer containing models and their prices. You may want to visit the web site at collinscmg.com.

If you have any questions regarding this, please feel free to give Steve Brown (404-876-5995) or me (404-885-7261) a call.