

**Cardinal Adam Maida as Quoted on the Paul W. Smith Show
on WJR Radio this Morning, Wednesday, June 22, 2005:**

CARDINAL MAIDA: I think if you have any kind of a heart, you're sorry for what has to be done and the great needs we have in the city and throughout our Catholic school system. We're all challenged; we know how important the Catholic schools are to our people and to the general community, but yet, we have to be realistic and that makes my job, my work, very, very difficult because I know people are hurt and I hurt with them. I wish I were the Lord and could recreate some of these systems and whatnot so that we wouldn't have these problems. But, that's part of life. We have to address the issues that are before us and we move forward.

All the schools that we touched were judged by objective criteria, by an objective task force, and I brought them before our Presbyteral Council and College of Consulters and we had unanimous agreement in everything we've done. And we've tried to be fair and understanding, and really, I try to do everything I can to save them because that's my main objective in life--to build a church, not to tear it down or make it smaller, when it would be much more effective in our culture and in our society. And, the schools are at the heart of that. But, we have to do what we have to do in order to survive and to be better in the future.

I'm very conscious of the healing that needs to be done and it's on my conscience and I'm going to try to do everything I can to put some salve on those wounds. I can tell you that over half of the children who have been displaced have already found alternatives in our other Catholic schools that are available to them. We're going to continue to work with our people--especially the young people. I have my focus on the kids and I'm not going to let them down.

###