



July 20, 2020

Dear Holy Cross School Families:

I am happy to announce that upon working collaboratively with parent, faculty and parishioner representatives and our partners at the Diocese of Rochester our new principal for Holy Cross School is Mr. Thomas J. (T.J.) Verzillo.

We welcome Thomas J. (T.J.) Verzillo as the new Principal of Holy Cross School. TJ grew up in West Irondequoit and is a product of the Catholic School system. As an elementary school student, he attended St. Thomas Apostle School and is a 1994 graduate of the Aquinas Institute. In his home parish of St. Kateri Tekawitha parish in Irondequoit, NY, he served on the Pastoral Council and acted as the liaison for the Parish Finance Council.

Professionally, TJ served 12 years with the Diocese, most recently as the Principal of All Saints Academy in Corning, NY. He brings nine years of teaching experience with Saint Monica School and Cathedral School at Holy Rosary. Prior to position as Principal of All Saints Academy, he served as the Operations and Education Director for the Volunteers of America Children's Center. In that role, he oversaw the Universal Prekindergarten and Head Start programs for close to 300 children while supervising a teaching staff of 60 members. He holds a New York State teaching certificate, a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Rochester and Master of Education from Roberts Wesleyan College. TJ is a graduate of the Catholic School Leadership program from the University of Rochester's Warner School where he earned a Certificate of Advanced Study in Educational Administration.

I am looking forward to working with Mr. Verzillo. Mr. Verzillo brings an extensive experience as a Catholic educator with a background in elementary instruction and administration. What I find most compelling about Mr. Verzillo is his love for and faith in Jesus Christ and his desire to share the Gospel message with our faculty, students, families and parishioners.

With our new principal and experienced faculty, staff plans will continue to be made for the 2020-21 academic year. The safety of students, faculty and staff is our highest priority. These plans are being made to ensure that such safety measures are taken.

I wish you and your families a restful and safe rest of the summer. I am looking forward to meeting you in the fall.

In Christ,

Very Rev. William G. Coffas
Pastor of Holy Cross and Our Mother of Sorrows