



**The
Cathedral of
Saint Peter**

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON

June 9, 2020

Dear Saint Peter Cathedral School Community,

These past weeks have certainly provided an unusual way to end our school year! When I started as Rector–Pastor of the Cathedral at the end of January, one of the greatest joys that I found in the role was ministering in the school community. Saint Peter Cathedral School brings such joy and vitality to the area—it is truly *The School with a Heart in the Heart of the City!* Founded in 1830 by the Daughters of Charity, the religious sisters have guided our school for 190 years, the past six of which have been under the leadership of our beloved Sister Donna. To work alongside her for these past four-and-a-half months has been eye-opening and informative—besides the joy she brings to all she does. Sadly, the Daughters of Charity are reassigning Sister Donna out of our community, and our school is going to miss having her at the helm. Let me take this opportunity to thank Sister Donna for her 25 years of ministry at Saint Peter Cathedral School. What is evident to me in only four months you can confirm with the experience of your lives—Sister Donna has truly given her heart to this community. It was never a job for her, but a family. We regret that the pandemic has robbed us of the ability to celebrate her time with us, but rest assured that as soon as we are able, we will invite Sister Donna back for an opportunity to thank her for all she has done for us and the school and to wish her well.

Even as we are saddened that Sister Donna is being reassigned, we rejoice that the work the Daughters of Charity started nearly two centuries ago will still continue. The convent will still have four sisters living there, and Sister JoAnne will continue to minister in our school. We are so grateful for their service to our community and our city!

But, that still left us needing a principal for the next school year. The Daughters were not in a position to send us another sister (no matter how many times we asked). So, I formed a search committee that was composed of diocesan school office staff, former members of the faculty from the school, a former parent, members from the last advisory board, community leaders, and parish membership. After a national search, we reviewed five serious candidates and met with three. After further conversations with two of those candidates, I am happy to announce that **I have appointed Ms. Jane Manley as the next principal of Saint Peter Cathedral School, effective July 1, 2020.**

As part of the process, I consulted with our school teachers for the qualities that they hoped our next principal would have. Overwhelmingly they wanted to be sure that the next principal saw this role as a calling to fulfill and not just a job, and they wanted the next principal

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to have a passion for working in the heart of the city. We have found the person that fits the bill! The search committee unanimously recommended Ms. Manley for the position. In my conversations with her, she is so eager to 'hit the ground running' to continue the work of the Daughters of Charity and lead us as we prepare to celebrate our 200th anniversary in 2030.

On assuming this new role, Ms. Manley expressed her excitement "to serve the Saint Peter Cathedral School community especially during this transition period. It is an honor to become part of the one-hundred-ninety-year mission of educating children in the Catholic tradition of excellence in the inner city of Wilmington. I look forward to joining the SPCS community and immersing myself in the cherished traditions and charisms the Daughters of Charity have cultivated for almost two centuries."

In the coming weeks, Ms. Manley will make her way to 6th and Tatnall and begin her service to our community. I know that you will join me in welcoming her as she makes Wilmington her home. In the meantime, let us pray for one another, for Ms. Manley, and our whole Saint Peter Cathedral School community, that the Lord bless us, keep us safe, and bring us together again after our summer break!

God bless you,



Very Reverend Joseph W. McQuaide, IV
Rector

Ms. Jane Manley, who grew up in Connecticut, has been an active member of the Diocese of Tyler, Texas for the past 30 years. She, and her husband of 35 years, raised their children in the Catholic school system before she joined its employment in 2003. She served Bishop TK Gorman Catholic School for 17 years in several capacities as a teacher and Director of: College Matriculation, Academics, Student Services, and Student Formation. Ms. Manley is firmly committed to living as the hands and heart of Jesus in the community and has led student groups to do the same both locally and abroad.



For the past two years, Ms. Manley has served as the Assistant Principal of a PK3-12 Christian school in Tyler, charged in particular with improving the academic standards. Prior to her work in education, she was the COO of Curves International, taking the company from the first franchise to more than 3500 locations in five countries.

Ms. Manley holds a MS in Educational Leadership and a Graduate Certificate in Catholic School Leadership from Creighton University, an MS in Pastoral Ministry from University of Dallas, and a BS in Psychology from Texas Woman's University.