



ST. BARTHOLOMEW ACADEMY

October 8, 2020

Dear Friends,

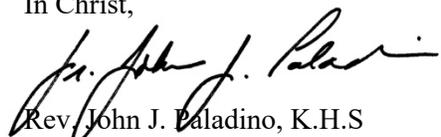
If this pandemic has taught us anything, it is that plans change, and we must adapt to new situations. The same is true with all institutions, including St. Bartholomew Academy. As you know, Mr. Joel Castillo began his time with us on July 1, 2020 and he has been instrumental in steering the Academy through this pandemic so that our students were able to return to the classroom safely. However, due to unexpected personal family circumstances, Mr. Castillo has made the difficult decision to accept a position in the public-school arena effective October 23, 2020. We very much appreciate Mr. Castillo's transparency about his decision, and although difficult, we know it was keeping the interests of both St. Bartholomew Academy and his family in mind. We thank him for his outstanding leadership during the critical time in our history, his ongoing commitment to help with a transition, and wish him and his family much health and happiness in the future.

Knowing the uncertainty a change like this can have on a school community we have been deliberate and thoughtful in finding a suitable replacement to lead the Academy. We have worked closely with the Archdiocese and we have made an offer, which has been accepted, by a strong, disciplined, faith-filled Principal from a current Archdiocesan Catholic school. We are happy to announce that Ms. Kimberly Harrigan will start as Principal on November 1, 2020.

Ms. Harrigan has been the Principal of Visitation Academy in Paramus (which happens to be the grammar school that Fr. John and nine brothers and sisters graduated from) since 2013. A product of Catholic schools herself, from grammar school to college, Ms. Harrigan brings to St. Bartholomew Academy a love of the Catholic faith and a full understanding of the challenges Catholic schools face today. While Principal of Visitation Academy, Ms. Harrigan upgraded the school's technology, designed and created a Maker Space Room and won the Innovations in Catholic Education award for Maker Space from Catholic Teacher magazine. We are excited for her to join us at St. Bartholomew Academy. Ms. Harrigan will spend a few days in school meeting the students and staff over the next few weeks.

We know this change during a school year may be difficult. However, we are living through challenging times, and we are a strong, faith-filled community that has weathered many storms. This school has been a cornerstone of the parish and the community since 1950 and we are very enthusiastic about the growth of our Academy, the success of our students, and we look forward to meeting the challenges of the next 70 years.

In Christ,


Rev. John J. Paladino, K.H.S
Pastor


Rev. David C. Santos
Chaplain