



March 28, 2018

Dear Parish Family,

We are pleased to announce the new Principal of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish Elementary School. Dr. Patricia Hensley, Ph.D., comes to us after six years serving as Head of Schools at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Schools in Perryville, Missouri. Previously, Dr. Hensley has served as Principal of St. Mary Magdalen School in South City St. Louis, Assistant Principal of St. Elizabeth Academy, Principal of St. Francis of Assisi School, and Principal of Ursuline Academy. In addition, she spent two years in missionary service as the Head of School (K-11) at Immaculate Conception Catholic School, West Indies. She has also been an Adjunct Instructor in the Catholic School Leadership Program at St. Louis University, mentoring graduate and doctoral students in Qualitative and Quantitative Dissertation Design and Research Development. Dr. Hensley brings a deep faith, tremendous experience, and beautiful enthusiasm for our Catholic Education mission of learning, loving and living Christ.

We will host a "Meet the Principal" reception on Tuesday, April 17, in Hall B and C of the Fr. Joe Kempf Parish Center, beginning at 7:00 pm. Please plan to join us and meet Dr. Hensley, to share fellowship with one another and to provide a warm welcome to our new principal. She is excited about the opportunity to continue her journey with us as we strive together to form the student centered learning community God has called us to be, within the larger mission of our parish, where we find Christ and bring Christ to the world.

One pivotal moment of grace in Dr. Hensley's journey is her departure from Ursuline Academy in 2007 after twelve years of leadership. Dr. Hensley has asked us to be proactive in our communication regarding her leaving from Ursuline; it was not of her choosing, yet it has proven to be part of God's plan. She was asked to leave after having been found in violation of the school's use of technology policy; she had forwarded a string of jokes to several people using electronic mail. One of the jokes in the string, which she had not read, was judged inappropriate. She learned a valuable lesson that year which sent her on a path of growth and development and provided her the opportunity to reconnect with her passion for education by serving the poor community of St. Christopher in the West Indies. Dr. Hensley's candid and poignant description of that time of transition in her life reveals her faith and her commitment to serve. We are grateful for her willingness to join us and we are glad to welcome her into our community of faith.

We look forward to seeing you April 17. God bless you this Easter.

Fr. Mitch Doyen
Pastor

Mrs. Melinda Kruper
Director of Religious Education

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