



ST. BARTHOLOMEW ACADEMY

May 28, 2020

Dear Friends,

“Pandemic”, “Coronavirus”, “COVID19”, “quarantine”, “social-distancing” terms that we are sure were not a part of your daily vocabulary. They were not a part of ours. These terms represent a global event, an event that has turned the world upside down - from your family, to your church, to your favorite activities, to being with friends, to an abrupt end of schooling as we once knew it. With this reality, we hope you and your families are well, and are staying safe. Indeed, this year has been difficult for many, and we should keep those who are suffering or have experienced loss in our hearts and minds.

Despite this very strange and challenging end to our school year, we could not be more optimistic for the future of Saint Bartholomew Academy. Under the stewardship of the Religious Sisters Filippini, and especially under the care and leadership of Sister Elizabeth, the school has never been stronger. Sister came to us earlier this year expressing that she was planning to retire. While we are sad to see Sister leave, we know the love and dedication that she has put into the school. And as they say, when you decide to leave something, you want to do it on a high note, and while you are on top. And for that, we are eternally grateful that Sister is leaving St. Bartholomew Academy as a strong and healthy school, with a very bright future. At the appropriate time when we can all be together, we will be celebrating the contributions Sister Elizabeth has given to the Academy over the last 12 years.

With Sister Elizabeth’s departure, the Academy will no longer be under the direction of the Religious Sisters Filippini, but the mission and values that the order instilled over many years will continue. When searching for a successor, this commitment and adoption of the mantra “Go Forth and Teach”, was of utmost importance.

We are very pleased to announce that Mr. Joel Castillo will be our next Principal for Saint Bartholomew Academy effective July 1, 2020. Mr. Castillo not only has impeccable credentials, but we are confident he was the best candidate not only to continue the spirit and traditions of the Religious Sisters Filippini, but also to shepherd the Academy through what will undoubtedly be an unpredictable and challenging post COVID environment.

Mr. Castillo has served as Principal of the Academy of Our Lady of Peace in New Providence for the past six years. Under his leadership, the school obtained National Blue Ribbon Status, implemented a STEAM program for all grade levels and fostered a strong line of communication between himself, the faculty and families. Prior to this role, he served as Vice Principal of All Saints Academy in Parsippany where he updated the school’s curriculum and strengthened their technology programs. Mr. Castillo has been a teacher for over 15 years and holds his Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from the University of Rochester, Masters in Childhood Education and Instruction from Adelphi University, and ED.S in School

Leadership from Seton Hall. Mr. Castillo brings with him an energy and dedication to Catholic Education that we believe will enable St. Bartholomew Academy to flourish for another 70 years.

We look forward to Mr. Castillo starting, and he has immediate plans to engage with faculty, administration, and parents. He will be hosting a Q&A session to be announced in the coming weeks. Please look for an invitation and a form to submit your questions.

Mrs. Janet Ramos, our very dedicated and exceptional Vice Principal, will assist Mr. Castillo in his transition to St. Bartholomew Academy. After some time of transition, Mrs. Ramos will retire to spend more time with her family, in particular, her mom.

St. Bartholomew Academy is blessed to have an administration, faculty, and community of parents who all contribute to its ongoing success. This cooperation and shared vision is what gives us strength. We remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Rev. John J. Paladino
Pastor



Rev. David C. Santos
Chaplain