

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Mary Our Morning Star, pray for us!

A NEW "DAWN" AT OLQA



Dear Parish Family:

I am very happy to announce that on Saturday, August 1, 2020, **Mrs. Dawn Waller** will become the new principal of Our Lady Queen of Apostles Regional Catholic School.

This March, we formed a search committee, led by Sister Kathy Schleuter, CSJ, which consisted of nearly ten individuals from a variety of backgrounds inside and outside of OLQA. Nearly ten candidate applied from up and down the eastern coast of the United States. Candidates went through an extensive process including responding to simulations, communication strategies, interviews and more. It was not an easy process and it should not be. This is important work. Of the candidates, Mrs. Waller was recommended to the pastors of the four supporting parishes. After final interviews, Mrs. Waller was offered and accepted the position.

This is an extraordinarily trying time to be an educational leader, particularly in Catholic education. Mrs. Waller has shown the passion and the desire to take on this role in this time. She is a parishioner at St. John the Evangelist and has served as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. Her presence ensures a good tradition and stability for the school. She has taught at OLQA for many years and in other Catholic schools before coming to OLQA and has served as the Assistant Principal in the 2019-20 school year at OLQA and on the leadership team since 2018. Mrs. Waller is a dedicated teacher with special focuses in the area of special education and technology. She will bring all of this experience to this unique time in Catholic education. As you supported, encouraged, and prayed for me over the past two years as principal, I ask that you do the same for Mrs. Waller. I am excited for all she is going to bring to the students and families at OLQA. Great things are in store for the Catholic School in Center Moriches.



As you know I became the principal of OLQA in August 2018 after the resignation of the previous principal. With a lot of guidance, support, and encouragement (particularly of Bishop Brennan—how could I say no?), I took on this position in addition to serving as the Pastor at St. John the Evangelist R.C. Church. I would be dishonest if I said it has not been a lot. It has been a lot! I would also be dishonest if I said I did not love it. What an honor and privilege for me!

You know I spent 13 years working in a Catholic high school before entering the seminary. Those were great years, too. I presumed that leaving to enter seminary also meant the end of my work in schools. Never did I imagine I would be back in the ministry of education, working with young people and their families, teachers and incredible staff each day. I have learned a great deal in these two years and I hope, in some way, I have been able to offer something to life and tradition of the Catholic School in Center Moriches.



When I started in this role, I started to pick up the phrase “always gratitude”. I think it came from a place of anxiety to be honest. I needed to remember in the midst of some pretty tough times and days that there were always reasons for gratitude, particularly the students at OLQA. I am indebted to those incredible students and families who were open to new ideas and ways and so supportive. The present faculty of OLQA understand the mission and the vocation of a Catholic school teacher. They get it! I am also grateful to the staffs of both SJE and OLQA who have had to take on more due to my lesser presence in both places. The leadership team at SJE and the leadership team I formed at OLQA took on a great deal for

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which they did not necessarily sign up! In a special way, I must thank Mrs. Grace Halversen, the Administrative Assistant at OLQA. “Miss Grace” offered great wisdom and support, welcomed new ideas and directions, and poured (and pours) out her heart to all at OLQA. What a gift to our community!

We are in the midst of changing times in education and Catholic education in our diocese, in particular. The Morning Star Initiative, in coordination with the Education Department, is working hard to make our existing Catholic schools as strong and vital as they can be in these days. We are looking forward to a new school year— IN SCHOOL—but mindful of and prepared for any public health issues that come our way. We are working to form young people in the Catholic faith in the midst of a world that struggles to accept the value and sacredness of life, the dignity of all people, the commitment to the poor and marginalized and the care of earth. We go through these times confident that God walks with us for “we know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose” (Romans 8:28).

Please continue to support and pray for the work of Catholic schools, particularly Our Lady Queen of Apostles Regional Catholic School. Please pray for Mrs. Waller and, if you can, please say a prayer for me.

Our Lady Queen of Apostles, pray for us! + Mary, our Morning Star, pray for us!

Always gratitude.



SJE/OLQA PAINT CLUB RETURNS!

Do you like to look up at the sky? Well, good news! We have some ceilings that need some careful painting! If you're able to help us out, please email to Fr. John at jsureau@sjecm.org or call the Parish Office at 631.878.0009.



CANA CARE CREW UPDATE

Thank you for your great spirit of cooperation and generosity in these days. For the upcoming weeks, we ask the following:

Updates on Seating:

- We ask those who are being seated as individuals (1 person) or a group of two to please sit in the fronts rows of each section of the Church or in • the chairs on the perimeter of the Church.
- There are pieces of blue tape on the rows. I ask that you sit on the blue tape. This will give us enough distance.
- Some have asked, “If I bring my husband, do I have to sit with him?” No! We can get you individual seats!
- Those who come to Church in groups of three or more are asked to set behind those single sections.
- Members of the Cana Care Crew will assist you, of course!



More Help Needed!

- We are looking for more volunteers to assist with the Cana Care Crew, particularly after Masses with the wipe down of the pews. If you and/or your family are willing to help, please see one of the volunteers in the orange shirts. We provide the gloves, t-shirt, towels and cleaning solution. You provide the arm strength and the positive spirit!

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OUR LADY QUEEN OF APOSTLES CATHOLIC SCHOOL VIRTUAL TOUR



TO VIEW THE TOUR VISIT OLQANY.ORG

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