



Tuesday, April 13, 2021

Dear Friends of St. Maria Goretti Catholic High School,

We are pleased to announce that Joseph O. Padasak, Ed.D. has been appointed President of St. Maria Goretti Catholic High School. Dr. Padasak most recently served as Superintendent of Schools for the Chambersburg Area School District in Pennsylvania and was the choice of the search committee charged with recommending a new president for Goretti. Dr. Padasak's experience as an educational leader at both the system and school levels make him an ideal choice to lead Goretti into a new period of growth and excellence.

"It is a great honor for me to join the Goretti family at this critical and exciting time in Catholic education. Goretti's mission to educate and form productive members of society in the Catholic Faith is so important now, not only for the region, but also for the country" said Dr. Padasak.

Dr. Padasak will assume the duties of President on May 3, 2021. We wish to thank Dr. Thomas Burnford, who has capably and generously led the school as Interim President these past eight months, overseeing many complex administrative issues during this time of transition while ensuring the seamless and effective delivery of education amidst the pandemic. We are deeply grateful for his service.

Dr. Padasak served as District Superintendent for the Chambersburg (2006-19) and Windber (2002-06) Area School Districts. In addition, he served as Chief School Administrator at the Franklin County Learning Center (2006-09) and the Greater Johnstown Career and Technology Center (2003-06) and as Middle School Principal for the Hamburg Area School District (1996-2002). While serving as Superintendent of the Chambersburg Area School District, Dr. Padasak oversaw a system that consisted of more than 9,000 students, over 1,000 employees and a \$125 million budget. Early in his career, Dr. Padasak gained a host of in-classroom experience, acquiring a variety of teaching roles at both the secondary school and college/university levels beginning in 1978. As a lifelong Catholic, Dr. Padasak has been and remains active in the life of his parish and in various social concerns ministries.

Among Dr. Padasak's strengths is the breadth of his educational leadership experience, which we believe positions him well to advance St. Maria Goretti's goal of elevating its profile as a regional leader in education and expanding programmatic offerings to students through innovative corporate and collegiate-level partnerships. While serving as Chief School Administrator for Franklin County Learning Center, Dr. Padasak initiated and implemented a cooperative educational arrangement with Windber Research Institute, Franklin Advisory and Summit Health Systems. From handling contract negotiations to serving on district building committees to initiating in-service programs for professional staff, Dr. Padasak brings tremendous administrative experience that will ensure Goretti is operating efficiently, as well as effectively.

Dr. Padasak received a Bachelor of Science degree from Pennsylvania State University, a Master of Education degree from Western Maryland College and a Doctor of Education degree from Widener University.

We are grateful to the search committee and to the entire Board for its continued support of St. Maria Goretti Catholic High School.

Sincerely in Christ,

Dr. Robert Cirincione
Board Chair

Mr. James Sellinger
Chancellor, Department of Catholic Schools

"Together we can grow Catholic education in our community"

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