



Bishop Names Nolan Grad as the New President

Bishop Michael F. Olson announced Friday the appointment of Erin Vader as the new president of Nolan Catholic High School, the Diocese's 1,000-student secondary school located at 4501 Bridge St. in Fort Worth.

Ms. Vader is the first Nolan Catholic graduate to lead the school in its 53 year-history. She is also the first woman to lead the school. And she is the first local Catholic school educator to move into leadership at Nolan Catholic.

Ms. Vader will begin her duties in July. She currently is principal of Our Mother of Mercy Catholic School.

"Ms. Vader is the right person to build on and expand Nolan Catholic's traditions of evangelization, academic excellence and service to the community," Bishop Olson said.

She comes to Nolan with an extensive knowledge of the diocesan school system and the various ethnic, cultural and social-economic communities within the Diocese. She brings a vision for Nolan to be "inclusive, rigorous, holistic and, most importantly, based on joyfully spreading the Word of God."

Ms. Vader is a product of Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth's schools and has worked as a teacher and administrator in the diocesan school system for 18 years.

She is a 1984 graduate of St. Maria Goretti Catholic School in Arlington and a 1988 Nolan Catholic graduate.

After earning a bachelor degree in English, Ms. Vader joined the staff of St. Andrew Catholic School in Fort Worth where she taught a variety of subjects to middle school students for nine years and was also involved in school committees and community charity work.

In 2005, she became principal of St. Peter the Apostle Catholic School on Fort Worth's West Side and one of the Diocese's center-city schools, where she was responsible not only for academic affairs but also for faith development of students, budgeting and facilities management.

In 2010, Ms. Vader became the middle school director and assistant principal at Our Mother of Mercy Catholic School in the near Southeast Side of Fort Worth and another member of the Diocese's Center-City Schools Consortium. She created and implemented a middle school academic program, "Making our Mark," which focused on faith formation, academic excellence, discipline and preparing all students for college and Heaven.

Ms. Vader became the principal of Our Mother of Mercy in 2012 and was responsible for both spiritual and academic growth of the students and the professional development of teachers. Our Mother of Mercy employs the president/principal model of operations in which the president focuses on Catholic identity, strategic planning, advancement and business matters while the principal concentrates on academic matters.

Nolan Catholic, likewise, employs the president/principal model. As president, Ms. Vader primarily will be responsible for

the Catholic dimension of the school, strategic planning and all business matters, including development, budgeting and facility development as well as community relations.

Ms. Vader earned her bachelor's degree in English from the University of Texas at Arlington in 1994 and a Master of Education degree from Texas Wesleyan University in 2001. She is currently enrolled in the Texas Wesleyan Doctoral Educational Leadership program. She also earned certification from the University of Dallas Catholic's School Leadership program in 2003. She has been a presenter at various local and national Catholic education conferences.

Ms. Vader replaces Father Richard Villa, SM who will end his tenure on June 30, 2014 when the Marianist community departs the Diocese.

Nolan Catholic has always been owned by the Diocese of Fort Worth but administered since 1961 by the Marianist community. Nolan Catholic began as a co-institutional school with Catholic secondary education provided for young women by the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur and for boys by the Marianists.

The Diocese elected to assume management of Nolan Catholic and conducted a national search for the new president.