



New Fort Worth Catholic Diocese School Superintendent Named

Bishop Michael F. Olson Monday announced that he has appointed Fort Worth native Jennifer R. Pelletier as the superintendent of schools for the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth.

Ms. Pelletier will assume her duties on July 1, 2015.

“I am very grateful to Catholic School Management and our local members of the search committee who have worked very diligently over these past six months in finding the right candidate to serve as our new superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Fort Worth,” Bishop Olson said. “We were able to review and to interview many excellent candidates and applicants. This collaborative effort has resulted in my decision to hire Ms. Jennifer Pelletier and to welcome her as our new superintendent.”

“As a native of Fort Worth and graduate of Our Lady of Victory School, she returns home to us after many years of experience in Catholic education and administration. She comes to us with an excellent reputation for her commitment to the mission of Catholic education and for her servant leadership in collaborating with others to carry out this important apostolate of our Faith. I am very proud and eager to have her join us in developing our ministry of Catholic education.”

Ms. Pelletier currently is president of St. Joseph Catholic School in Bryan, Texas, which is composed of four campuses, including two daycare centers, an elementary campus and upper classes campus. She joined the St. Joseph school in 2011 as an English teacher and administrator and later became president.

“It is very exciting to be able to work so closely with Bishop Olson and Father (Karl) Schilken,” Ms. Pelletier said. “Their love and dedication to Catholic education is apparent and vitally important to the growth of the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth. “Although I will be saddened to leave my Bryan/College Station community, the chance to work with the principals in the Fort Worth Diocese is exciting. They have already shown themselves to possess a great love for their communities, and I cannot wait to be a resource and support for them as they lead their schools.”

The Fort Worth Diocese’s Catholic school system consists of four high schools and 18 elementary schools in the 28-county North Texas area that the Diocese serves. The Diocese’s Catholic school system serves approximately 5,600 students with 512 faculty members.

The high schools are Nolan Catholic and Cassata in Fort Worth, Notre Dame in Wichita Falls and Sacred Heart in Muenster. The elementary schools are All Saints, Holy Family, Our Lady of Victory, Our Mother of Mercy, St. Andrew, St. George and St. Rita in Fort Worth; Holy Cross in Frisco; Holy Trinity in Grapevine; Immaculate Conception in Denton, Notre Dame in Wichita Falls; Sacred Heart in Munster; St. Elizabeth Ann Seaton in Keller; St. John in North Richland Hills; St. Maria Goretti and St. Joseph in Arlington; St Mary’s in Gainesville, and St. Peter the Apostle in White Settlement.

The Catholic Schools Office provides direction and support to the Catholic schools in the Diocese of Fort Worth, as well as advocating on behalf of the schools and monitoring schools to ensure they are faith-based while complying with education standards.

Ms. Pelletier attended Holy Family Catholic School from kindergarten through the fifth grade and Our Lady of Victory Catholic School from sixth through the eighth grades. She is a graduate of Arlington Heights High School.

She earned a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature degree in 1995 and a Master's in Education in 2002, both from the University of Dallas in Irving.

Ms. Pelletier began her education career in 1999 at St. Luke Catholic School in Dallas as a teacher and dean of discipline. She joined St. John's College High School in Washington D.C. in August 2001 as a world history and British literature teacher and went on to become the senior English teacher for both honors and regular classes.

She left St. John's in 2011 to join the staff of St. Joseph Catholic School in Bryan and became president in 2013.

While at St. John's, Ms. Pelletier received the Gasser Award, an honor voted on by the faculty for the teacher they think best represents the ideals of the teaching profession and she was named the Teacher of the Year by the football team for the teacher who best worked with the athletes and their parents.

Ms. Pelletier is the daughter of Chuck and Pat Pelletier, long time leaders in the Diocese's pro-life community. She has an older sister, three younger brothers and 14 nieces and nephews.

"My parents have been pillars in the pro-life community since I was in sixth grade, shaping my views of education as an invaluable source of moral absolutes," she said.

Additionally, she has been very involved in sports, specifically basketball, on a competitive level. Her work with varsity basketball has kept her in touch with professional athletes, including NBA and MLB athletes.