

## Peace and Gratitude

With a grateful heart, today I want to share that I plan to step down as Principal of Jesuit High School at the end of the 2021-22 school year. As I begin my 35th year as an educator, 25<sup>th</sup> as an administrator at JHS, and 10<sup>th</sup> as Principal, the time is right for this transition. As Jesuit's President Tom Arndorfer and the members of our admin team know, I have been discerning the movements of the Spirit and my future path for about two years. I have come to this decision with deep peace and excitement about what lies ahead for me, and for Jesuit.

The *cura personalis*, faith formation, and intellectual richness that I experienced at my own Jesuit high school, Loyola Academy in Illinois, transformed my life. For 35 years, I have tried to teach from the deep well of gratitude I still feel for the graces offered by the teachers and administrators at Loyola at a challenging period in my young life. And so many times during my years at Jesuit, most recently at last weekend's Senior Pilgrimage, that well has been replenished by Jesuit's magnificent students and staff.

Jesuit is in a position of tremendous strength. Our teachers, counselors, coaches, program directors, and administrators are the best in the business. Our support staff and Board provide unmatched care and resources to our students, the fortunate beneficiaries of this diverse-yet-united corps of Ignatian educators. What an honor it has been to accompany Jesuit's students as they pursue knowledge, grow in confidence, have fun, and experience the faith, hope and love that this profoundly Jesuit, Catholic school showers on them.

Our teachers' commitment and creativity over the decades, and especially over the past 19 months, has been astonishing. The joy of having students back in classrooms, fields, courts, stages, on retreats and at Mass has rekindled the fire for so many of us. So, even as I discern what uses God has yet in store for me, Jesuits students and staff are moving forward with a clear commitment to becoming an even more just, inclusive, healthy, and sustainable school.

As the great Jesuit poet Gerard Manley Hopkins, SJ, reminds us, the Holy Spirit hovers over all of us, and over Jesuit, "with warm breast and with ah! bright wings."

Thanks to God, and to all the members of the Jesuit High community whom I have known and loved over the years. This may feel like a moment to pause and reflect, but the work beckons. We still have plenty of tilling in the vineyard to do. The school year is young, so let's get after it!

AMDG