



SAINT CATHERINE LABOURE CATHOLIC PARISH

Shrine of the Miraculous Medal

PRAYING • BELIEVING • LIVING ...AS DISCIPLES

June 18, 2018

Dear Friends and Parish Family:

It is my great pleasure and with God's blessings that we welcome Colette S. Vail as our new principal of Saint Catherine Labouré School.

Mrs. Vail comes to us from Paramus, New Jersey with over 30 years' experience in Catholic education and administration and has been recognized for her work as a National Distinguished Principal by the National Catholic Education Association and the United States Department of Education. Most recently, she served for 20 years as principal of Saint Joseph School in Oradell, New Jersey where she led the school through two successful reaccreditation cycles, attained the school a National Blue Ribbon recognition award (2011), and developed strong extra-curricular activities, world language, integrated technology into the classrooms, fostered strong language arts, lab science, a school retreat program and summer camp.

Mrs. Vail has a tremendous amount of energy and a deep commitment to Catholic education. She and her husband, James P. Vail, have dedicated both their professional and married life to providing children with access to educational opportunities that embrace excellence in academics, extra-curricular opportunities and support our Catholic identity. They are an amazing couple that you will get to know well – Mrs. Vail here at Saint Catherine Labouré School and Mr. Vail as he takes the reins at Bishop McDevitt in their newly announced position of high school President. They come to Harrisburg with individually impressive credentials, but a shared vision and commitment to strong and vibrant Catholic schools.

When God closes one door, he opens a new one. We are so blessed as a school community and parish family with talent and leadership that has made our school a special place. Our search committee had big shoes to fill when Sister Mary Anne Sweeney, IHM announced her transitioning from educational leadership. Mrs. Vail's qualifications, experience and enthusiasm for our school's promise and potential made her an excellent choice. We are deeply grateful that she has agreed to pick up where Sister Mary Anne left off, with the assistance of our faculty and staff, support of our parents and the love and energy of our students.

Mrs. Vail will be working with Sister Mary Anne Sweeney through July to ensure a smooth transition into our school community and prepare for an exciting new school year, which includes several school building and classroom improvements that are already in the works and welcoming some new faculty members into our family. It will be a busy summer dedicated to this transition and introductions while simultaneously making our school the best version of itself.

Be on the lookout for an invitation in the near future when we will provide Mrs. Vail with our very best Royal welcome! In the meantime, I humbly ask you pray for God's guidance for and blessings upon all of the generations of our school's leadership, faculty and staff so they may best serve our children and their Catholic education.

Sincerely yours in Christ Jesus,

Very Reverend Neil S. Sullivan, VF
Pastor