

PROVIDENCE

September 30, 2021

To the Providence Community:

On September 23rd, faculty, staff, and students gathered in the Larkin Center for our first all school Mass since the pandemic began. We were honored to have Fr. Matt Tucci celebrate the Mass and to have several deanery priests concelebrate. While separated somewhat by social distancing and masks, we were elated to be together as a faith community. Experiencing the Eucharist as one full body of Christ was a beautiful and inspirational gift, one we have missed greatly.

I received a personal gift that day when Fr. Tucci called me up unexpectedly for a special birthday blessing. The next day I would be celebrating one of those milestone birthdays, and I was humbled to be called forward. The blessing provided a comfort and strength beyond a birthday acknowledgement. It reminded me of this scripture passage:

For I know well the plans I have in mind for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare, not for woe! Plans to give you a future full of hope. (Jeremiah 29:11)

I have always trusted that God's plan was for me to be at Providence these many years: 4 as a student, 10 as a teacher, and 20 as principal. Lately, I have felt God has a new plan for me...it is called retirement! After much prayer and reflection, I announce that this is my last year as Providence's principal. Next school year, I will work with President Beeler to ensure a smooth leadership transition and to complete several projects before my final departure in the fall.

What a bittersweet moment for me! I am so excited for Providence and its new leadership, but I will miss this community and all the wonderful people who have touched my life while here. I have been a passionate, faith-filled Catholic educator for 44 years, in both the Archdioceses of Indianapolis and Louisville, and serving in this ministry has been one of my greatest loves. The joys have greatly outnumbered the challenges, the blessings have far outweighed the long hours, and the personal and spiritual growth opportunities have made the journey all so sweet. It has been a cherished honor and privilege to have served and made a difference in the lives of our young people and their families in the New Albany Deanery.

I am so very grateful for all the kindness and support received along the way. Our Lady has always been the guiding force, and it is with her continued intercession and protection that this school will fulfill its mission for decades to come. I will always treasure being a small part of the legacy that is Our Lady of Providence High School.

With love & gratitude,



Mindy Ernstberger