



THE DIOCESE OF CHARLESTON

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## **Pope John Paul II Catholic School Names New Principal**

(BLUFFTON, SC) – The Most Reverend Robert E. Guglielmone, Bishop of Charleston, has appointed Ms. Christine Paul as principal of Pope John Paul II Catholic School. Ms. Paul will oversee the opening of the new school which will serve students in the Lowcountry Deanery from 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. She begins in her new position on September 4. “With both the capital campaign and construction plans moving forward, this was the time to hire a full-time principal for Pope John Paul II Catholic School,” said Bishop Guglielmone. “Ms. Paul brings a wealth of experience to the new position. I have every confidence in her ability to build a 21<sup>st</sup> century school with a challenging academic curriculum and positive learning environment.”

Ms. Paul has more than 20 years of experience in four different Catholic schools, including 15 years as an administrator. She earned her Bachelor’s Degree in Education from Kent State University. She has a Master’s Degree of Education in Curriculum and Foundations from Cleveland State University, and a Master’s Degree of Education in Administration from Ashland University. Ms. Paul most recently served as principal at Aquinas High School in Augusta, Georgia. “I am absolutely thrilled to have a role in bringing a Catholic secondary school to the families in the Lowcountry area and look forward to working with the entire community in making this vision a reality,” said Ms. Paul. “Our goal is to provide a top-notch, high-tech experience infused with Gospel values so our students will develop the intelligent worldview and compassionate, kind spirit of our namesake, Pope John Paul II.”

In March, Pope John Paul II Catholic School received a \$3 million dollar donation to support the construction of the school. The financial gift significantly enhanced the efforts to build a much needed Catholic school in the Lowcountry. Currently, area parishes are involved in a capital

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campaign to raise the remainder of the necessary \$7.5 million dollars to open the school. “It is a truly graced event to be opening a new Catholic secondary school in our diocese at this time when Catholic schools in so many other states are experiencing declining enrollments. Ms. Paul brings a wealth of both teaching and administration experience in Catholic education to her new position at John Paul II School, and I am looking forward to partnering with her to make this third diocesan-owned school the very best that it can be,” said Jacqualine Kasprowski, Associate Director for Secondary Education.

Dependent upon reaching fundraising benchmarks, diocesan officials hope to begin construction on the new school in the Fall of 2012 with the possibility to begin classes Fall 2013.

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**About the Diocese of Charleston**

The Catholic Diocese of Charleston comprises the entire state of South Carolina with Charleston as its See city. Founded in 1820 by Pope Pius VII, it is one of the oldest Catholic dioceses in the United States.

**About Pope John Paul II High School**

Pope John Paul II Catholic High School is the Diocese of Charleston’s newest school. It will be built at a location central to the Diocese’s Lowcountry Deanery on Highway 170 near Okatie, South Carolina.