



## DIOCESE OF TRENTON

*Department of Catholic Schools*

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April 2022

Families of St. Mary's Academy,

The last two school years are unlike anything we have ever experienced or expected in Catholic education. However, our schools, and specifically St. Mary Academy, ARE open and living our mission EVERYDAY...just as you have come to rely on and expect. The enthusiasm for Catholic education has never wavered at St. Mary's, because you are a deeply faith filled community. All around the school community there is faith in our students, our staff, and our school families that we will work together to provide the spiritual, academic, and social activities necessary to allow our students to continue to excel academically and grow in their spirituality and achievement here in Manahawkin.

As we all face the new school world we live in, post-Covid, I have such confidence in St. Mary Academy for their future. Monsignor Ken Tuzeneu is **exactly** the type of strong spiritual leader of the school program that is needed. He along with the Pastors of the surrounding parishes see the need for and importance of Catholic education in the community. Lizanne Coyne is not a manager of the school program. Those are plentiful in education today. Lizanne is a **leader** in the Catholic school world. I am so pleased, and you are so blessed, to have this leadership team in place for your children. These folks are not only dedicated to your children, but more importantly see beyond the horizon on where St. Mary's can lead your children to achieve two things: 1. Full development of themselves as a person (academically, socially, spiritually, physically) and 2. Put them on the path to Heaven. Nothing more, nothing less. As a parent, you are blessed that is the reality in your school.

In the not-too-distant past, the school that was on this site was headed in the exact opposite direction of where it is today. Fast forward a few years and the students are fully engaged, the physical plant is one of the best in the Diocese, the leadership team is world-class, enrollment continues to rise, and the educational outcomes are positive on all fronts. The Diocese of Trenton is so proud for the turnaround and so excited about the future. St. Mary Academy is a jewel and as Superintendent I do not mind sharing that news...in fact it's one of the joys of my job.

Any turnaround of a school program is not completed in a vacuum. There had to be tons of hard work with countless hours of effort and sweat, by a host of individuals. Parents, the Pastor, the Principal, the support staff and of course the teachers all played a part in the revival. Please know that I have seen this on my many, many visits to the school and I am confident in that it will continue to push this Catholic program.

My prayer is that you will continue to support the St. Mary Academy school community today and tomorrow!

With sincere appreciation and prayers for your safety and health,

Dr. Vincent de Paul Schmidt  
Superintendent – Diocese of Trenton