



Good Shepherd Catholic School
Preparing Students for a faith-filled life of:
Learning, Leadership and Love for others.

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IHM SISTERS ARE ON THE MOVE IN QUEEN OF PEACE PARISH

Good Shepherd Catholic School in Ardsley is rooted in the traditions of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, who have staffed the “new” school and its legacy schools, Queen of Peace and St. John of the Cross (Roslyn) Catholic Schools. And now as the current school year winds down, the GSC community and Queen of Peace Parish will celebrate the founding principal of Good Shepherd and a few of her convent mates, who will begin new assignments later this Summer.

Sister Patricia Healey, IHM has been the principal of Good Shepherd Catholic since its opening in 2010. Rev. Lawrence Crehan, pastor of Queen of Peace Parish, said, “Without Sister Patricia Healey, Good Shepherd Catholic School would literally not exist. With the merger of the parishes in 2014, the plan was to close GSC, but Sister Patricia was able to help to change the mind of the archdiocese and GSC was kept as a niche school.”

Father Crehan went on to explain, “A niche school would be a small, dedicated, vibrant community rooted in Catholic/Christian teachings and values. Sister Patricia has continued to advocate the necessity of these values in the students, the faculty, the staff and volunteers. Sister has encouraged the families of our school community to live and teach these values at home and wherever they may be.”

Crehan’s words are echoed by some current GSC students. First grader Liam Leheny said, “Sister Patricia always tells me that she loves my smile. She smiles at me every day, and that makes me smile more. She likes to see her students feeling happy.”

“Sister Patricia and all the IHM Sisters made GSC what it is today, a school filled with God, Scholarship, Community, and Service,” said Meghan Nowaczyk, a student in grade 6. “They made each one of us feel welcome and they brightened each day,” she added. “I will miss them very much and will pray for them, but they will always be here in spirit with us.”

When the next school year begins in September, Sister Patricia will be the new vice principal at St. Cecilia School in the Fox Chase section of Philadelphia, and Sister Helen Thomas, IHM is moving to Ardsley this Summer from Saints Philip and James School in Exton to serve as GSC's new principal.

Meanwhile, Sisters Mary Maguire, Mary Crawford and Michael Maureen, who live at Queen of Peace Convent, will be moving to Camilla Hall, the IHM's retirement facility in Immaculata, PA. Sister Mary Maguire has been teaching Spanish to the preschool and primary grade students at GSC, and she has assisted with Sacramental preparation. Sister Mary Crawford ministers to the homebound in the parish and also visits with prisoners. And Sister Michael Maureen has served faithfully as a Chaplain at Abington Hospital and as a visitor to the sick.

In honor of these four dedicated nuns, school families and parishioners are hosting a "Farewell" celebration in the North Hills Avenue school's auditorium on Saturday afternoon, June 10, beginning at 2:30. The Saturday Vigil Mass will follow at 5:00 in Queen of Peace Church to pray for all IHM Sisters as they respond in new ways to God's call to serve His people.

In addition to Sister Helen Thomas, new IHM residents at Queen of Peace convent will include Sister Maryanne Winterberg, who will be coming to assist in the school, as well as Sisters Maryan Chappetto and Anne McGuire. They will join current occupants Sister Marie Horstmann, who is director of religious education at St. Patrick's in Norristown; Sister Barbara Brahl, the principal at Visitation School in Trooper; and Sister Patricia McKee, third grade teacher at GSC.



If you would like more information about this Press Release, please contact Amanda Wilkes, Advancement Director at 215-886-0126 or email at advancement@gscregional.org.