

Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth
For Immediate Release
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Rev. Richard Villa, S.M., Named President of Nolan Catholic High School

The Most Rev. Kevin W. Vann, Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth and the Marianist Province of the United States announce the appointment of Rev. Richard Villa, S.M. as president of Nolan Catholic High School, effective July 1, 2009. Father Villa will succeed Thomas P. Long who has served in this capacity since August 1, 2008.

Bishop Vann commented, "We are pleased to welcome Father Villa to our diocesan community. Not only does he bring to Nolan Catholic his presence as a priest, but a wealth of leadership experience, with strong roots in the Fort Worth area."

Rev. Villa holds a Bachelor of Arts in English from Saint Mary's University, San Antonio, Texas; a Master of Science in Administration from the University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Ind.; a Bachelor of Sacred Theology from the University of Wales, Lampeter, and Chaminade International Marianist Seminary, Pontificio Collegio Beda in Rome.

An experienced Catholic school educator and leader, Father Villa spent 10 years as assistant dean at the University of Dallas; seven years at Chaminade College Preparatory School in Creve Coeur, Mo., as an instructor and associate principal; and eight years at Nolan Catholic High School as an instructor and Nolan Catholic's first advancement director. Additionally, Father Villa taught at Saint Michael Central High School in Chicago, Ill.; and Assumption High School in East St. Louis, Mo. He is currently associate pastor at Saint Joseph Catholic Community in Sykesville, Md.

Nolan Catholic's current president, Thomas P. Long, has been a vowed member of the Marist Brothers of the Schools since 1980. He began a three year leave of absence from his religious community in 2006 for the purpose of vocation discernment. In consultation with his religious superiors, he has decided to return to active religious life. Subsequent to this decision, the Marist Brothers have assigned Brother Thomas to Central Catholic High School in Lawrence, Mass., effective September, 2009.

Nolan Catholic High School is Texas' largest Catholic high school, and a part of the Diocese of Fort Worth Catholic school system. NCHS is a diocesan school administered in the Marianist tradition by members of the Society of Mary. The school serves the mission of the Roman Catholic Church by educating youth.

The characteristics of Marianist education taught at Nolan Catholic High School are:

- To educate for formation in faith
- To provide an integral, quality education
- To educate in the family spirit
- To educate for service, justice and peace
- To educate for adaptation and change

On average, 99 percent of its students go on to college. The 2009 graduating class reports more than \$9.4 million in scholarships from colleges throughout the country. The school's strong academic program is driven by an excellent faculty, of which more than 55 percent hold advanced degrees and who teach college advanced placement courses in a variety of subject areas.

In 2008, the Fort Worth Star-Telegram's Readers' Choice Award program named Nolan Catholic High School as the best private school in Fort Worth.

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