

Bishop Hendricken Has a New President

Father Bob Marciano's homily to parishioners announcing his appointment as President of Bishop Hendricken High School

By Reverend Robert L. Marciano, KHS

Dec. 22, 2018—It is the time of year when we give and get gifts and this week my creative parish staff gave me a very unique Christmas gift. This is the actual corroded pipe fitting complete with the hole in it that burst in the school. It has a plaque on it with the date Nov. 24, 2018 and this quote from the Gospel of St. Matthew:

“And the rains fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock.” —Matthew 7:25

How true this is. St. Kevin's Parish and its school are built on solid rock. The school still standing tall, cleaned, and now ready to be restored. We received bids this week and awarded the job which will begin next week. We think that it will take at least 8 weeks to repair the damage but I will certainly keep you posted.

Speaking of gifts ... I also received a very unique Christmas gift this week: a high school. His Excellency, Bishop (Thomas) Tobin, asked if I would accept the appointment as President of Bishop Hendricken high School beginning January 1st. I will be following in the wonderful and sturdy footsteps of Mr. John Jackson, a St. Kevin parishioner and good friend to us all, who recently retired after 46 years at Hendricken with the last eight years serving as its President. I accepted the offer on one condition: that I could remain here as Pastor of St. Kevin and St. Benedict. The Bishop agreed.

I think this is an exciting opportunity and a great challenge. When the idea began to surface many months ago and several people, including the Superintendent of Catholic Schools, suggested I be considered for the job, many of them quoted words that I have used for years, “That I never say ‘No’ to Hendricken.” And so, after much prayer and consideration and advice from family and friends—both pro and con—I will assume my new duties on January 1st. I wanted to make this announcement to all of you first and as I speak the Hendricken community, board, faculty, staff, parents, and students are being notified by robocall of my appointment.

To be honest, not much will change for us here at St. Kevin and St. Benedict except one thing: if I am celebrant of the Mass the Opening hymn will be (Bryan plays *Ruffles and Flourishes* three times).

I know the concern many of you have as you hear this news is that I am already busy enough. Let me assure you of two things: I am very good at managing and budgeting my time;

and I am a very good delegator. Also, I often remember the quote that, *“The person who loves his work, as I do, will never work a day in his life.”*

As you know, it has been my honor and privilege to serve as your Pastor these past six-and-a-half years, and I look forward to continuing this ministry for many years to come. These additional duties and ministry as President of Hendricken are part of my lifelong love and gratitude for the gift of Catholic education that my brother and I—and so many people whom we I know—have benefited from and that has literally shaped our lives and grown our faith. It is my responsibility now to give back in a new way and help ensure the continued growth and strength of the great institution that Hendricken has been for almost 60 years. With your help and prayers and support, I look forward to the days and years ahead as I work with Mr. Mark DiCiccio, the new Principal of Hendricken, and the faculty, staff, families, and students to help to build a future that is bright for the Church and for our world with Hendricken men, dedicated and shaped by what their, or rather OUR mission statement says:

- A Hendricken man is conscious of his own self-worth fashioned in the image of God;
- confident in the power of the Gospel to meet the challenges of the future;
- committed to responsible decision making in the service of the common good.

What a privilege to be part of that journey!

So, I ask for a kind remembrance in your prayers for me, Mr. Jackson and his many years of service and well-deserved retirement, and for the entire Hendricken family—past, present, and future—that we may truly work each day to build up the Kingdom of God here in our midst.

God love you!