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DIOCESE OF ROCKFORD

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PRESS RELEASE

Marian Central Catholic High School Names New Superintendent

WOODSTOCK, Ill – Marian Central Catholic High School will say goodbye to its long-time superintendent, Tom Landers, as he retires June 30. Landers has served Marian Central Catholic for 34 years coming to the school in 1981 as assistant principal, then becoming superintendent and chief administrative officer in 1983.

Succeeding Landers is Andreas "Andy" James Edmondson. He has been the superintendent at Newman Central Catholic High School in Sterling since 2011.

"The Rockford Diocese is very pleased to welcome Andy to the Marian Central Catholic High School family," said Michael Kagan, Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Rockford.

"Andy has been mentored in the Diocesan Catholic School system by Tom Landers so he has a real sense of appreciation for tradition and how it can serve the future of Catholic education. That mentoring helped Andy in his work at Newman Central where he was able to increase enrollment despite a declining population. He has proven experience in the areas of advancement, development and alumni relations. He has integrated new technologies into all areas of education increasing the quality of academics."

"In fact," Kagan said, "Newman is projected to have the highest ACT scores in its history in 2015."

Edmondson received a bachelor of science degree in elementary education and social studies in 1998 and a master's degree in educational leadership in 2004 all from Western Illinois University. He was an administrator at Challand Middle School in Sterling from 2004 to 2008 He became principal at Lincoln Elementary School in Sterling from 2008 to 2011, prior to his job at Newman Central Catholic.

"We are excited to have Andy come to Marian first and foremost because he not only talks the language of Catholic identity but lives the life of an involved parishioner; going on a Kairos retreat, working on Christ Renews His Parish and being a leader on a weeklong high school

summer mission trip with his parish," said Father Paul White, pastor of Church of Holy Apostles, McHenry. Father White is the Chair of the Marian Central Council of Administration and was Chair of the Superintendent Search Committee.

"As a student at Western Illinois University, Andy attended as a scholarship football player, so he understands what it takes to excel in sports and where God, family and academics lie in priority to athletic excellence. As a professional leader, Andy is always trying to learn new ways and seek people out to help the students learn more and help teachers grow professionally. Andy, along with Dr. Michael Boyle from Loyola University, gave a presentation on professional development at the recent National Catholic Education Association annual meeting."

"Our committee is very excited to have someone of Andy's caliber follow Tom Landers and be so familiar with the exemplary way Tom has run this school," Father White said.

"I am very excited about being a leader in Catholic Education in this new position at Marian Central." Edmondson said. "I look forward to getting the pastors of all the area parishes involved in the schools and getting the students at Marian Central involved in their parishes."

Edmondson and his wife Becki have 3 children and live in Sterling. He begins work at Marian Central on July 1, 2015.

Established in 1908, the Diocese of Rockford is comprised of Boone, Carroll, DeKalb, JoDaviess, Kane, Lee, McHenry, Ogle, Stephenson, Whiteside and Winnebago Counties with a Catholic population of approximately 400,000. The diocese has 105 parishes, 40 Catholic elementary schools and 8 Catholic high schools – six diocesan high schools and two private Catholic schools—Rosary and Marmion Academy. More information can be found at www.rockforddiocese.org.

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