

NEWS RELEASE

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Rice Memorial High School New Leadership

Burlington, VT – The Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington is pleased to announce new leadership at Rice Memorial High School. Sister Laura Della Santa, RSM has accepted the position of Principal of Rice Memorial High School. Bishop Christopher Coyne will assume the role as President of the Rice Memorial High School Board of Directors and work closely with the school administration and School Board to oversee institutional advancement, Catholic identity and provide financial oversight on behalf of the Diocese. Both positions will be effective July 1, 2016.

“Sister Laura has the Catholic school management experience necessary to lead Rice’s administrative team and daily operations while continuing our strong mission of faith and service to others,” says Bishop Coyne. “She is well known in the wider Vermont community for her leadership skills and is perfect for the job. I am pleased to work with her and the Rice Board to strengthen our Catholic charism and financial stability.”

Sister Laura is currently the Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington and has a strong background in Catholic school administration with over 43 years within the school system, 30 years of which were at Catholic Schools. A native Vermonter, Sister Laura recently returned to Vermont from the Diocese of Manchester, NH, where she held the position of Principal of Saint Joseph Regional School in Keene, NH for over 10 years. She also served as President of Walsingham Academy in Williamsburg, VA; principal, assistant principal and teacher at Mater Christi School from 1984-2000; and as a public school teacher in Milton for 13 years.

“I appreciate my experience as Superintendent for the Diocese and the opportunity to bring this new perspective to my role as Principal of Rice. I look forward to using my God-given gifts and experience to build upon the great progress under Msgr. Bourgeois’ leadership and continue to advance enrollment while maintaining Rice’s high standard of academic excellence and well-rounded opportunities for all students.”

Sister Laura has been recognized among Catholic educators for increasing school population, financial support and improving academics. Sister Laura’s education includes a Master’s Degree in Education from Saint Michael’s College; she also attended “Pastor & Principal Leadership Conference” at Boston College Roche Center for Catholic Education, as well as completed education and formation in Safe Environments, Catholic School Law and NECASE Conferences. She also served on numerous boards and committees, including the Mercy Education Network Council.

Founded in 1917, Cathedral High School served many generations of Catholic families until 1959, when Rice Memorial High School was built as a regional Catholic high school. Rice is Northern Vermont's only Catholic High School that serves over 400 co-ed students in grades nine through post-graduate from 47 towns. To learn more about Rice Memorial High School please visit: <http://www.rmhsvt.org/Page/About-Us/Rice-at-a-Glance>.

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