



**Basilica and National Shrine of
Our Lady of Consolation**
Conventual Franciscan Friars
315 Clay Street
Carey, OH 43316-1498

June 16, 2026

Re: New Principal

To:

Teachers, Parents and Parishioners:

This letter is written to inform you that a new Principal for Our Lady of Consolation School has been hired.

A committee was formed, consisting of three teachers and three parishioners, to interview prospective candidates. Several candidates were interviewed in the process. After careful consideration the committee recommended a candidate be hired. That candidate is Ryan McKinnon. Ryan has accepted the position and will start his duties immediately. Meetings have already been set up with Ryan and Mr. Gerber, who graciously accepted the position on an interim basis, to effectuate the transfer.

Mr. Gerber, Mr. McKinnon and I will set up a town hall meeting in the very near future to introduce Ryan. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the mission, vision and what makes OLC the right choice for families. In setting up this town hall meeting we request that if you have any questions, you submit them to the Parish office no later than Friday June 26, 2026, via email to parishoffice@olcshrine.com. Mr. Gerber and Mr. McKinnon will select an array of questions that they will answer. This will provide them with an opportunity to prepare properly to answer your questions and concerns.

We are excited to be moving forward with Mr. McKinnon. He is extremely excited to lead OLC School now and into the future. Please keep him in your prayers.

Sincerely,

Fr. Thomas J. Merrill, OFM Conv.

Fr. Thomas J. Merrill, Rector

Your Journey in Faith, Hope and Healing