



January 13, 2021

Dear Friends of Mater Dei Catholic,

After much prayer and reflection on my professional and personal journeys, I am writing to inform you of my decision to step down as President of Mater Dei Catholic High School and Mater Dei Juan Diego Academy on June 30, 2021 to spend more time with my family. At that time, I will have served for five years as President of Mater Dei and nineteen years in total at Marian and Mater Dei. I have been a Crusader for the majority of my professional career, and I will continue to remain at Mater Dei in a limited capacity for as long as necessary to ensure that a successful transition in leadership takes place. The Diocesan Office for Schools and I are committed to making sure that Mater Dei continues to serve as a model for Catholic education and thrives in the years ahead.

It has been a privilege to serve as the President of Mater Dei Catholic High School and Mater Dei Juan Diego Academy. When I began as President in 2016, Mater Dei was a bit of a hidden gem. However, thanks to the power of prayer, the wisdom of the Diocese of San Diego, the talents of our dedicated faculty and staff, and the incredible partnerships we share with parents, alumni, and friends, the school today shines brightly as a precious jewel in the South Bay. We have experienced a significant growth in enrollment in both our high school and elementary school and were the fortunate recipient of sizable endowment funds which will help to solidify our future. Each year our high school graduates are accepted into the finest colleges and universities in the country and our elementary school was awarded the Reimagine Catholic Schools Award by the Diocese of San Diego for its innovation in bilingual education.

As I reflect back on the last 5 years, I am most proud of the fact that our students' interests have always been at the center of every decision we have made and have always been the focus of our planning. Today, we stand proud of all we have accomplished for them and for the future of the Catholic communities in which they will live and lead. Watching students take pride in their accomplishments, form lifelong relationships, and grow spiritually and morally are what makes Mater Dei such a special place.

There have been so many who have been instrumental in Mater Dei's success that it would be impossible to name them all. Our faculty, staff and administration are the strongest I have experienced in my career and have a deep sense of mission and love for our students. Our parents have been valued partners with a strong belief in our core Catholic values and support for the school that serves their children. I will forever be grateful to the generous benefactors

who make it possible for our school to provide a world-class Catholic education for students who may not otherwise be able to afford it. A “thank you” does not seem adequate to express my appreciation and gratitude to all of you.

I look forward to doing all that I can to aid the process the Board of Directors has begun to put in place, and I will work to make the transition smooth and seamless. I also look forward to helping ensure the long-term strength and viability of Mater Dei as I will continue to work with the Finance and Advancement Departments in the years ahead. I will forever maintain a proud affiliation with Mater Dei, and I look forward to seeing you all in person.

God bless,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John J. Rey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" and last name "Rey" clearly distinguishable.

John J. Rey
President