



THE DIOCESE OF HOUMA THIBODAUX

DIOCESE OF HOUMA-THIBODAUX CELEBRATES NEW CHAPTER IN CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Bishop Shelton J. Fabre of the Catholic Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux today announced a new chapter in south Louisiana Catholic education: a new Superintendent of Catholic Schools, a new Coordinator of Christian Formation, and the kick-off of strategic planning.

Suzanne Troxclair, who has served the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux as Curriculum Specialist since 2013, has been named as the Diocese's sixth Superintendent of Catholic Schools. Troxclair brings 27 years of experience to the Superintendent's Office, including over 13 years in the classroom and over ten years specializing in curriculum development and effective teaching and learning practices. Within her 27 years of experience over 15 of those have been in some form of administration. A wife of Allen Troxclair, Jr. and mother of three children, she is a native of Crowley and a resident of Thibodaux.

"I am so grateful and humbled to have been entrusted by Bishop Fabre with the ministry of leading the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux Catholic Schools. As we embark on our journey together to meet the needs of our people through the strategic planning process, I am filled with hope and excitement for the promising future that awaits us," said Troxclair.

She added: "I was blessed with a family who lived their lives deeply devoted to God and who understood the importance of the ministry of Catholic education. My parents made great sacrifices to afford their five children a strong academic education in a Christ-centered environment. As a former student of the diocese, parent of three children educated in our Catholic schools, parishioner of St. Joseph Co-Cathedral, and now the Superintendent of Catholic Schools, I look forward to the opportunity to utilize this four-dimensional perspective of Catholic education – a perspective unique to the position in our diocese – to listen to and work collaboratively with all of our people as we form our children into faith-filled, lifelong learners who go on to minister to God's people as missionary disciples in Christ."

Bishop Shelton J. Fabre said of Troxclair's hire: "We engaged the services of a professional firm to assist us in seeking applications nationally for a new Superintendent. This firm then worked with the members of our local committee on examining and then interviewing the candidates who applied. Based on the recommendations of the members of this local committee made up of clergy, school officials and members of the laity, Suzanne Troxclair was the best option for us as we look towards strategic planning and the future for our Catholic schools."

He further commented: "Suzanne brings to the Superintendent position the advantage of her own experience in having served our Office of Catholic Schools as the Curriculum Specialist. I am excited that the wealth of this prior knowledge and experience on her part will allow her to immediately begin to integrate into our efforts with regard to Catholic education her own thoughts, ideas and expertise. Suzanne has a great love for Catholic education, and I know that our Catholic schools will benefit from her gifts and leadership. I am very pleased to welcome her as our new Superintendent of Catholic Schools."

Fr. Simon Peter Engurait, who currently serves the Diocese as Moderator of the Curia, has been named Coordinator of Christian Formation. As Coordinator of Christian Formation, Fr. Engurait will oversee eight Diocesan Offices and three Diocesan Ministries, each charged with various aspects of forming disciples. The Office of Catholic Schools now falls under the Department of Christian Formation and the leadership of Fr. Engurait. Thus, Fr. Engurait will work closely with the Superintendent and Office of Catholic Schools, specifically focusing on strengthening Catholic identity within the Diocese's 13 Catholic schools.

“The ongoing Strategic planning process is remarkable in that it has given us an opportunity to delve into a future we want for ourselves, our children and grandchildren and to deliberately chart out a plan to achieve it. I am deeply inspired and delighted at the way the people of God across the diocese have embraced this planning process as manifested in the numbers and enthusiasm in the meetings.” said Fr. Engurait. He added: “In the midst of this process, I am therefore humbled as well as excited to take on the responsibility of coordinating the development and strengthening of Christian formation in our diocese. It is a big challenge, but together and with the abiding help of God we shall make it. One of my primary goals and desires is to strengthen the Catholic identity in our schools. With commitment and dedication, God will grant us the desires of our hearts, for the greater glory of His name.”

Bishop Shelton J. Fabre said: “From his many years working in the corporate world, Fr. Simon Peter brings invaluable experience to his administrative responsibilities. However, to his new role he also brings his identity as a priest and therefore a pastoral perspective. Fr. Simon Peter is a man of great prayer and spiritual maturity, and I know that as Coordinator of Christian Formation he will enrich our efforts across the diocese, especially in our Catholic Schools, to assist children, youth, young adults and adults in growing in their relationship with Jesus Christ and in becoming missionary disciples for the Lord. We have already benefitted greatly from Fr. Simon Peter’s presence at the Pastoral Center as Moderator of the Curia. I look forward to the many graces that he will bring to the area of Christian Formation as well as how his leadership will specifically help our Catholic schools with regards to Catholic identity.”

Bishop Shelton J. Fabre also highlighted the grassroots-driven strategic planning process currently underway as the diocese nears its 40th anniversary in 2017. Thus far the strategic plan has focused on a variety of aspects of evangelization. Today, Bishop Fabre announced the September start-up of strategic planning focusing on Catholic schools with the hopes of building a long-term vision for the Catholic education of the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux.

Bishop Shelton J. Fabre said: “The ministry of Catholic school education is one of the largest ministries that our diocese and parishes are engaged in accomplishing, and it is an important ministry. We will in the very near future be engaged in a grassroots-driven strategic plan process for our Catholic schools in the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux. It is my hope that this strategic plan will serve to further enrich and strengthen our Catholic schools spiritually, academically and financially. The ministry of our Catholic schools is undertaken to prepare children not only academically, but to also prepare them to be the best disciples of Jesus Christ that they can be when they complete their Catholic school education. Together in our efforts with regard to strategic planning for our Catholic schools, we can enhance this ministry and assist it in bearing even more abundant fruit in the lives of our children now and into the future.”

The Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux serves over 5,500 Catholic students at 10 Catholic elementary and three Catholic high schools.

More information and online videos: www.htdiocese.org.

