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**DIOCESE OF
ROCKFORD**

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2023

PRESS RELEASE

New Superintendent Joins Diocesan Education Office

ROCKFORD—The Diocese of Rockford is pleased to announce a new superintendent of Catholic Schools, Dr. Kim White.

Dr. White began her new role as the superintendent of schools in the Diocese of Rockford Sept. 6. Dr. White succeeds Vito DeFrisco who retired July 1. Renee Payne, diocesan assistant superintendent of schools served as the interim superintendent until Dr. White was hired.

Dr. White comes to the Rockford Diocese from the Diocese of Nashville, Tennessee where she served as assistant superintendent. Back in May, she heard about the superintendent position in this diocese from a fellow Catholic in Nashville. Shortly after she began to research the position, she heard from a recruiter who asked her to “throw my hat into the ring,” she says.

Then “things moved quickly,” she says, with everything, one at a time, falling into place.

A New Jersey native, Dr. White moved to California with her parents as a child. Her parents encouraged her to get a business degree, so she began with that, working as a director of operations for Kelleher Equipment Supply from 1990-2004.

During that time, she and her new husband, Jeff, realized they both wanted to teach. She worked to support his education studies, then he worked to support hers.

Dr. White taught first grade at Foothill Christian School in the Los Angeles area (2003-2009). Then her sister won a dinner with the principal of her son’s school – St. Bonaventure in Huntington Beach. That led her to teach at St. Bonaventure from 2009 to 2013 then served as vice principal there from 2013 to 2018. She became principal for the 600-plus students at that school until moving to the Diocese of Nashville in 2022 to become assistant superintendent of schools there.

“I really loved St. Bonaventure, but felt my work was complete there.” She also felt, she says, that she was able to “spread my wings” in the Diocese of Nashville position.

This year, Dr. White completed a Doctor of Education degree in Educational Leadership; Curriculum and Instruction from Capella University, Minneapolis.

Her educational background includes an induction program/administrative credential from the University of California, Irvine (2017); a Master of Arts in Curriculum and Instruction/administrative credential from Concordia College University in Irvine (2012); a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential in Education from the University of California in Riverside (2010); a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential in Education from the University of La Verne, California (2007); and a Bachelor of Business Administration from National University, San Diego (1990).

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The most satisfying part of her work as an assistant superintendent, she says, was supporting school leaders and helping them find solutions to various challenges. Every school, she says, has its own personality and community, and principals bring a variety of expertise and talent to their work.

That variety “makes my mission each day very fresh,” Dr. White says, adding, “It makes me excited to come to work each day.”

As she begins her new position in the Diocese of Rockford, Dr. White says she is someone who loves learning, loves working with people who love learning and loves her faith, so having all three interwoven together has her feeling “very blessed.”

In her spare time Dr. White enjoys hiking, reading and volunteer work and has previously served as a parish lector and eucharistic minister. She and her husband Jeff and her adult son Andrew will make their home in Roscoe.

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Established in 1908, the Diocese of Rockford is comprised of 105 parishes in Boone, Carroll, DeKalb, JoDaviess, Kane, Lee, McHenry, Ogle, Stephenson, Whiteside and Winnebago Counties in Northern Illinois serving a Catholic population of more than 300,000. For more about the Catholic Diocese of Rockford visit www.rockforddiocese.org.