

Dear Saint Patrick Family,

For the past 54 years, I have been proud to serve Saint Patrick High School – as a teacher, coach, dean, principal and, for the last seven years, president. I have often said that I believe the Lord has a path for everybody, and I believe my path has been a providential one. So many things have gone right for me to be here so long.

When I joined the faculty at Saint Patrick in 1967, and committed myself to the mission of our Founder, Saint John Baptist de la Salle, I could never have known where my life and career would take me. It has been far more fulfilling and gratifying than I would have ever imagined.

Today, I would like to share that, while I have signed a two-year contract extension with the Board of Trustees, I will be transitioning out of my role as president at the end of the 2020–21 school year. Please know that I am fully committed to and will remain engaged with Saint Patrick as we welcome a new president for the next school year. My heart is focused on the families and young men we serve and I will continue to be an ambassador for our fine school for as long as I am able.

Our Founder reminds us “Do not forget to thank God for his many blessings,” and I have been truly blessed in so many ways in my 54 years. I have been fortunate to be among so many people who care deeply about Saint Patrick and the young men who attend our institution.

The Board of Trustees give their time, talent, and treasure, providing leadership with passion for our mission. In addition, generous benefactors make it possible for our young men, many of whom may not otherwise be able to afford a Catholic education, to attend Saint Patrick.

The faculty and staff dedicate themselves to our Lasallian mission every day, adapting to the ever-changing educational needs of our students, and our alumni are second to none evidenced by the number of legacies who send their sons to Saint Patrick, give back to the institution and still call Austin and Belmont home.

Our students, and the families who sacrifice to send their sons to Saint Patrick, make our school the special place it is today. The young men who pass through our hallways go on to become the future leaders of our city, country, and the Church leaving a legacy for generations to come.

I am proud of our school’s rich history. As I recently reflected on our 160th year, I was reminded of the resilience Saint Patrick has shown in some of the most difficult times including the Chicago Fire, World Wars, and the Great Depression. It is the same resilience our students, families, faculty, and staff continue to show as we face uncertain times during a global pandemic and societal unrest.



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Despite the challenges our country faces, I am confident in the future of our school. The Board of Trustees, administration, faculty, and staff are poised to lead and committed to move Saint Patrick forward.

Saint Patrick is a community where the values of our Catholic faith are alive and well, and we continue to deliver the promise of a Lasallian education as we live our mission every day. I remain confident in our ability to face the challenges of the current school year and committed to standing with you to continue building the future of Saint Patrick High School.

As I proudly serve the oldest all-male Catholic high school in Chicago in my role as an ambassador, I will continue working with families and deserving caddies who qualify for a Chick Evans Scholarship as a Director for the Western Golf Association.

My wife, Sheryl, and I look forward to the next chapter in our lives and continuing the mission of Saint Patrick as members of the Shamrock family for many years to come.

Saint John Baptist de la Salle, pray for us.

Live, Jesus, in our hearts. Forever!

Dr. Joseph G. Schmidt, AFSC