



THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

Office of Communications

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MEDIA RELEASE

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NEW PRINCIPALS ASSUME LEADERSHIP ROLE IN PARISH AND REGIONAL SCHOOLS IN THE DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE



From left: John-Paul Barnaba, principal of Long Beach Catholic Regional School; Rebecca Darmanin, principal of St. Patrick School, Smithtown; Dr. Thomas Fasano, principal of St. Anne's School Garden City; and Marcia Velasco, principal of Holy Name of Mary School, Valley Stream.

Photo of DRVC Office of Communications

ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NY – August 30, 2023 – The Diocese of Rockville Centre Department of Education and the Morningstar Initiative recently announced new principals assuming leadership roles in its parish and regional schools.

The new principals and their schools include:

- John-Paul Barnaba, Long Beach Catholic Regional School, Long Beach
- Rebecca Darmanin, St. Patrick School, Smithtown
- Dr. Thomas J. Fasano, St. Anne's School, Garden City
- Marcia Velasco, Holy Name of Mary School, Valley Stream

“We welcome these new principals into the Catholic administrative community,” said Pamela Sanders, superintendent of schools, Diocese of Rockville Centre. “Our office will



work closely and support them in their efforts to continue the long tradition of excellence in Catholic education.”

John-Paul Barnaba, Principal of Long Beach Catholic Regional School, Long Beach

John-Paul Barnaba comes to Long Beach Catholic after having served as Principal of the Academy of Saint Paul and Saint Ann in Manhattan. Previously, he served as Principal of Our Lady of the Assumption School in the Bronx. Barnaba grew up on Long Island and is a product of Catholic education, having graduated from St. Anthony’s High School, Huntington, N.Y.

He possesses master’s degrees in public policy from Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, N.Y., and in school leadership from St. John’s University, Queens, N.Y. He is also a graduate of the Current Academy (School Leadership Development Program run in partnership with the Diocese of Brooklyn and the Archdiocese of New York). He currently serves on the executive board of the Catholic School Administrators Association of New York.

“I look forward to not only being a school leader at Long Beach Catholic, but also being an adoptive member of the Long Beach community,” said Barnaba.

Rebecca Darmanin, Principal of St. Patrick School, Smithtown

Rebecca Darmanin has served in various capacities at St. Patrick’s School in Smithtown for the past 21 years. From 2020 she served as Assistant Principal, and prior to that, she has served as a classroom teacher. Darmanin earned a bachelor’s degree in elementary education from St. Joseph’s College in Patchogue, N.Y., and a master’s degree in child and family development and post-graduate certificate in district leadership from Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, N.Y.



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“For the past 21 years, St. Patrick School in Smithtown has been my home,” said Darmanin. “I have grown in my craft, worked with amazing colleagues, developed life-long friendships and grown in my faith. I am where God wants me to be at this moment and excited that he has allowed me to be an instrument in His divine plan.”

Dr. Thomas Fasano, Principal of St. Anne’s School, Garden City

Dr. Thomas Fasano began as a high school social studies teacher, baseball coach, and mock trial club advisor in the late 1980s. He was appointed Dean of Students at Massapequa High School in 1995. He was then appointed Assistant Principal at Kings Park High School in 1998 and then Principal in 2000. Fasano earned his doctorate in educational administration from St. John’s University, Queens, N.Y.

He was appointed Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources in the Massapequa School District in 2008, then Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction in 2010 until his retirement from the public school system this past July. Dr. Fasano graduated from Chaminade High School, Mineola, N.Y., and then St. John’s University, Queens, N.Y., earning a bachelor’s and master’s degree in history.

“I am honored to have the opportunity to return to my roots as principal, and in particular, to support the continued growth and success of the faith-based, family-centered learning community long established here at St. Anne’s school,” said Dr. Fasano. “Parents and staff are clearly committed to their children’s school and to the St. Anne’s parish community.”



Marcia Velasco, Principal of Holy Name of Mary School, Valley Stream

Marcia Velasco has nearly 25 years of experience as a teacher, administrator, and curriculum writer. She has worked at the elementary, middle school, and high school levels. As a teacher, she taught English Language Arts and Social Studies. As an administrator, her focus was on student academic growth and student discipline.

In a letter to Holy Name of Mary School families, Velasco said: “The morals, values and lessons that are taught in Catholic schools (in partnership with what is taught at home) are key for a child’s development and success. I am committed to making sure that these morals, values, and lessons remain at the forefront of your child’s education.”

Marcia Velasco earned a bachelor’s degree in Liberal Studies from SUNY Purchase, a master’s degree in education from Mercy College, and a certificate in school management and leadership from Harvard Graduate School of Education.

The Morning Star Initiative

Initiated in January 2020, the Diocese of Rockville Centre’s Morning Star Initiative (MSI) is a bold plan of Catholic evangelization (living and sharing the Gospel) for the revitalization of Catholic elementary education. In partnership with the Marianists and with the support of the Tomorrow’s Hope Foundation, the Morning Star Initiative aims to position Catholic education for a bright future, with a community of strong, expanding, and sustainable schools spread across Long Island.

For more information on MSI visit: [The Morning Star Initiative Renewing Our Schools - Catholic Schools of Long Island, NY \(licatholicelementaryschools.org\)](http://licatholicelementaryschools.org).

About the Diocese of Rockville Centre -2023

The Diocese of Rockville Centre (www.drvc.org) was formed in 1957 and covers 1,198 square miles in Nassau and Suffolk Counties. The diocese serves approximately 1.3 million baptized Catholics* (total population in both counties



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is approximately 2.5 million). There are 132 parishes plus 1 campus parish in 115 towns. The diocese is blessed with 328 total priests (160 active diocesan priests, 667 religious women, 54 Brothers and 273 permanent deacons. In 2021, 8,553 baptisms, 9,402 confirmations, 9,422 First Holy Communions and 1,052 Catholic marriages took place in the diocese. There are 11,054 students in Catholic elementary schools; 10,093 students in Catholic high schools and 4,883 students in higher institutions. There are 35 Catholic elementary schools (31 parish or regional and 4 private), 9 high schools (2 diocesan, 2 parish and 5 private) and one Catholic college (Molloy University, Rockville Centre) in the diocese. In 2021, there were 83,412 children in parish Faith Formation programs. In 2021, Catholic clergy and community provided consolation to families and loved ones of 12,544 deceased Catholics at 4 diocesan and 20 parish cemeteries. Catholic Health is an integrated system encompassing some of the region's finest health and human service agencies. The health system has nearly 17,000 employees, six acute care hospitals, three nursing homes, a home health service, hospice and a network of physician practices. Catholic Charities of Long Island shares the love of Jesus by offering dignified and compassionate care to poor and over 1.3 million, face-to-face services to an average of 58,000 neighbors from 53 sites in Nassau and Suffolk Counties. The diocese maintains Facebook, Twitter and Instagram social media platforms. Catholic Faith Network, broadcasts 24/7/365. The diocesan website drvc.org averages approximately 18,000 unique visitors each month. *As of 2021