

**Oblates of St. Francis De Sales
Brisson Community
3301 Solly Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19136**

May 21, 2017

Dear Neumann-Goretti Community,

The opportunity to serve as the School Minister for Neumann-Goretti High School is a twofold blessing from the hands of God. The School Community will have someone on staff to provide the sacraments and to attend to spiritual growth. I will have the opportunity to share my priestly vocation with you daily.

Neumann-Goretti has a rich Catholic tradition, which was planted and cultivated by the many Priests, religious Brothers, religious Sisters, laymen and laywomen, who have served as teachers, administrators and staff over the years. Together, we will build on the foundation laid by these men and women of faith. The goal is to strengthen this shared faith in the context of our Catholic identity.

My priestly vocation has been spent briefly as a teacher, but mostly as an administrator in Wilmington, Delaware and Philadelphia. Over the years, I learned from the School Ministers, who reported to me. Now, I have the chance to put into practice the suggestions I have given.

By way of introduction, my elementary and high school education took place in the schools of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. My vocation as an Oblate of St. Francis De Sales began in the September after my graduation from Father Judge High School. To a large extent, my priestly ministry has been exercised in the Catholic Education Apostolate. My weekends have placed me in several parishes assisting the local pastors with the celebration of the Eucharist, confessions and those major sacramental milestones of weddings, baptisms, anointing of the sick and funerals. Each weekday, however, I returned to serve in the classroom and at the administrator's desk.

Since we accompany one other in the journey of faith, it would be good for us to know ourselves as fellow travelers. I welcome you to introduce yourself to me. Share your expectations of a School Minister at Neumann-Goretti, offer your insights, then we can walk side by side.

May God bless us all.

Sincerely,

(Rev.) James E. Dalton, OSFS
School Minister
Neumann-Goretti High School