

Clarion Article – New Principal

There sitting in front of me, in his papal chair on September 12, 1987, Pope John Paul II addressed our group of religious educators and Catholic school leaders in a conference room at the Louisiana Super Dome. I sat on the edge of my seat on the second row as the Holy Father declared to us that what the world needs are more saints. Not in my wildest dreams did I ever conceive of becoming the President/Principal of the first Catholic high school in the world to be named in his honor. The memory of this gathering was sealed with the honor of shaking hands with this man who today we call St. John Paul II.

Sealed in my heart is the calling from Pope John Paul II to make more saints in the world today. As President/Principal of Pope John Paul II High School, I am called to lead a community of gifted educators to invite and mentor its students to become saints in the daily lives of their family, friends, and community. “Saints are only sinners who keep trying.” Are the words of St. Teresa of Calcutta (also known as Mother Teresa). Anyone who desires to love family, friends, or strangers to the best of their ability and to create a world that reflects the goodness of its creator is on the saintly path, even in their imperfections.

It is the mission of Pope John Paul II High School to guide its students to achieve excellence at their churches, in their classrooms, on the athletic fields and courts, in their art, music or dance studios, and in their communities. Pope John Paul II also said that the “future starts today.” The world needs more saints in our homes and churches, and the world needs more saints in hospitals, boardrooms, courtrooms, factories, farms, laboratories, firehouses, police stations, and state houses, anywhere the children of God can be found. My goal is to empower the students, parents, faculty, and staff of Pope John Paul II High School to experience the fullness of life so that we can create our life on earth as it is in Heaven.

I believe the providence of God has brought me to Pope John Paul II High School. My vocation as a husband of 36 years and father of three, my education at St. Joseph Seminary College and Loyola University New Orleans, and my experience as a teacher, retreat director, writer, national speaker, and assistant principal has prepared me to lead the school to its next step and beyond in its mission to be Christian leaders for excellence in service to its community.