

A statement from Christine Wanjura, Superintendent of Catholic Schools, on the Diocese of Lubbock Catholic High School at Christ the King
August 1, 2019 at Christ the King School

Thank you Bishop Coerver!

Yes! As Bishop Coerver said - Christ the King parish and school have a long history of partnering with parents in the formation of their children — body, mind and soul —... this happens in the context of family, Church and community.

Much has changed in the 60+ years of Christ the King parish and school. This school, built in 1957, in a cotton field on the outskirts of south Lubbock, now resides in the heart of the city. Lay teachers and staff fill most of the positions where religious sisters once taught and served. New buildings have emerged and much of the original structures on this campus have been renovated. This parish and school have always adapted to the needs of the day.

For more than 60 years pastors, administrators, teachers, parents, and benefactors have planted, watered and tended to the seeds of intellectual and moral formation that this school and parish were built on! And... they have produced MUCH fruit! In the past 60+ years, deep roots have been established to support the winds of change.

Thanks to Bishop Coerver's leadership, forward thinking, with some honest conversations and consultation with the priests of the diocese, it was decided unanimously by the presbyterate that the ministry of secondary education in the diocese is the responsibility of the whole diocese and not just one parish.

I announced at our parent meeting in October 2018 my excitement over the transitioning of Christ the King High School from a parochial school dependent primarily on the generosity of Christ the King parish into a Diocesan Catholic high school.

The governance and financing of the Diocese of Lubbock Catholic High School at Christ the King will become the responsibility of the diocese and the parishes represented in our high school's population.

This transition will provide energy needed for growth and allow for the entire Catholic community on the South Plains to take ownership for OUR diocese's ONLY Catholic high school.

Catholic schools in the diocese have always strived to be schools of excellence with the goal of being available, accessible, affordable, and the preferential option for all Catholic families.

Some have wondered where—long term—our high school will be located, or what will it be named? Some question whether the high school will keep its mascot – the Trojan— or will that change too?

We recognize the importance of approaching all decisions and all changes with much consultation, collaboration and input from our alumni, our benefactors, our board, our parents, students and faculty.

And so... we will keep you all on your toes as together we discern.

The first major step toward the transition to this Diocesan Catholic High School, however, was the process of searching, interviewing and hiring our new High School Principal. I am pleased to introduce our 1st principal of the Diocese of Lubbock Catholic High School, Mr. Eric Gray.

Mr. Gray comes to us from the Diocese of Fort Worth. He has a long history of work with young people in the Church in youth ministry, campus ministry, and as a Catholic school teacher. Mr. Gray earned a Masters of Theological Studies from the University of Dallas and a certificate in Catholic School Leadership from Creighton University. I am confident that Mr. Gray will provide the vision, energy and leadership to grow our Diocesan Catholic High school.

Mr. Gray and his family arrived in Lubbock this summer and are eager to join our West Texas community. We are happy to welcome them. Please welcome Principal of the Diocese of Lubbock Catholic High School at Christ the King, Mr. Eric Gray.