



Dear Friends in Christ,

I am pleased to announce that I have named Dr. Dan Ryan as president of the new regional system for the 12 Catholic schools in the Des Moines metro area. He will continue to serve as president of Dowling Catholic High School in addition to leading the region. Dr. Ryan brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the position and I am confident he will be an effective leader in this new combined role.

This appointment follows a national search led by Superintendent Donna Bishop and Steve Lacy who I recently appointed as regional board chair. Steve brings extensive leadership experience and business acumen as former CEO and executive chairman of Meredith Corporation. He has been a champion of Catholic education in Des Moines and has served in key leadership roles on the Dowling Catholic foundation board and other diocesan and nonprofit initiatives.

In his current role at Dowling Catholic, among his many accomplishments, Dr. Ryan has advanced the mission of Catholic education with a view toward present and future contexts. I have witnessed first-hand his effective leadership in the regionalization process and his work with pastors and principals over the last 18 months.

Collaboration has been a hallmark of Dr. Ryan's tenure. I am immensely grateful for his engagement with diocesan and community leaders on the Ignite campaign that will fund a new diocesan tuition assistance endowment. He has also focused on helping students and families across the state through his work with business leaders to enhance Iowa's tax credit program. In the course of leading the strategic planning process at Dowling Catholic in concert with Superintendent Donna Bishop, he has attended to the shared mission and vitality of all Catholic schools.

As president of the region, Dr. Ryan will focus on building upon the current strengths of schools and providing school leaders with the resources and tools they need to be successful. One of his first priorities will be streamlining business operations so that schools may leverage collective resources and implement best business practices. Additional goals include increasing revenue for teacher compensation and opening the doors to more families through increased tuition assistance.

I look forward to seeing the fruits of this new collaboration across these 12 diocesan schools. We should all be grateful to Dr. Ryan for his willingness to accept this position, and for his personal integrity of faith and professionalism, his comprehensive vision and commitment to Catholic education.

Faithfully in Christ,

**Most Rev. William M. Joensen, Ph.D.**  
Bishop of Des Moines