

**2016 – 2017 ARCHDIOCESAN DISTINGUISHED CATHOLIC SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR
Patricia O’Neil Tiezzi**



The Archdiocese of Hartford is proud to announce the selection of Mrs. Patricia (Patti) O’Neil Tiezzi, Principal of St. Rita School in Hamden, as the 2016 – 2017 Distinguished Catholic School Administrator. The honor was announced on August 16 by Superintendent of Catholic Schools, Dr. Michael Griffin, at the annual Administrators Convocation.

A well-respected educator and outstanding leader, Patti has long been dedicated to Catholic school education, having spent her entire career as a Catholic school teacher or administrator. This belief in Catholic education extends to her family as well, since Patti and her husband, Tom, who teaches at Sacred Heart High School in Waterbury, sent their two daughters, Grace and Hope, to Corpus Christi School, Mercy High School, and Fairfield University (Grace), and Duquesne University (Hope).

Patti earned her B.S. in Public Administration from Bentley University in Massachusetts, then went on to earn her M.S. and 6th Year Certificate in Administration and Supervision from Central Connecticut State University. She is also certified in Connecticut in History and Social Studies, Grades 7-12, and as an Intermediate Administrator and Supervisor. Following her graduation from Bentley, Patti began teaching middle school at St. Mary School in Newington where she eventually served first as Assistant Principal, then as Principal from 1989-1997. Patti’s service to Catholic school education in the Archdiocese also includes stints as Principal at St. Paul School in Kensington for ten years and Principal of St. Dominic School in Southington for eight years prior to her current position at St. Rita School. While serving as Principal of St. Dominic, Patti led the school to recognition by the U.S. Department of Education as a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence.

In addition to administering the successful operation of three schools, Patti has also pursued a wide variety of professional activities, including membership in the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, the Connecticut Association of Schools, the National Catholic Educational Association, and the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. Patti’s contributions to the Archdiocese over the years have been consistent and significant. Currently she serves as a New Principal Mentor, as secretary of the AIAC board, and as a representative on the Principals Advisory Council (PACE). Previously, she was a member of both the Educational Forum Steering Committee and the Teacher Appraisal Committee. Patti can always be counted on to provide whatever assistance the Archdiocese requests.

As a school administrator, Patti has steadily remained forward-thinking, creative, quality-driven, and student-focused. She has made it her priority to foster each school’s mission, while helping to create and execute a compelling and viable future vision. While promoting innovation and change, she also carefully shepherds school resources to insure academic excellence and fiscal stability. Patti has instilled a love for learning in all her students, to whom she dedicates the best efforts of the school. She has inspired faculty to learn new strategies and to develop their own gifts, and she has faced the challenge of change with courage and commitment. Patti is an exemplary model of Catholic school administration whose 28 years of outstanding leadership truly qualify her for this well-deserved recognition.

In the words of Superintendent Griffin, “Our distinguished principal has left an imprint on the souls of students and faculty alike. This imprint signifies the love for God and openness for his mercy, a lasting sense of the importance of character, a curiosity for learning, respect for creation, and above all a joy in the Gospel message that has been deeply imbedded in the Catholic school experience over which she administers. Please join me in congratulating and recognizing Patti Tiezzi.”