**ARCHDIOCESAN DISTINGUISHED ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PASTOR**

**2017 – 2018**

The Archdiocese of Hartford is pleased to announce that Reverend Monsignor Thomas M. Ginty has been selected as the 2017 – 2018 Archdiocesan Distinguished Elementary School Pastor. Superintendent of Catholic Schools, Dr. Michael S. Griffin, announced the honor during the 40th Annual HOPES Dinner on October 16.

Msgr. Ginty’s deep commitment to Catholic school education originated in childhood, since while growing up, he attended Ascension of Our Lord School in Philadelphia, followed by Holy Cross High School in Waterbury. After his high school graduation, Monsignor attended St. Thomas Seminary in Bloomfield, then earned his B.A. in American History at the University of Hartford and his Master of Divinity and M.A. in Church History at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary in Maryland. He was ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop John F. Whealon in 1985.

Msgr. Ginty began his ministry as Parochial Vicar at St. Thomas Church in Southington, then at St. Ann Church in Avon where he also served as Police Chaplain for the town. Positions as Chaplain of the Serra Club of Hartford, Director of Divine Worship, and Assistant Vocation Director followed, prior to his appointment as Secretary to Archbishop Daniel A. Cronin and Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Hartford. After his service to Archbishop Cronin, Msgr. Ginty became Pastor of Our Lady of Loreto Church in Waterbury, then St. Stanislaus Church in Waterbury, and currently serves as Pastor of St. Matthew Church in Forestville.

His experience as a Catholic school student informs Msgr. Ginty’s administration of St. Matthew School, and he is fully aware of the important role the school plays in the lifelong formation of its students. As their spiritual leader, Msgr. Ginty enthusiastically shares with his school community the philosophy and beliefs nurtured during his early education. He is a dedicated champion of Catholic school education in general, and of St. Matthew School in particular. In the words of St. Matthew School Principal, Helen Treacy, “Our mission for Catholic education is to shape the minds, hearts and souls of our youth....ultimately fostering a deeper relationship with Jesus, our Lord.  Monsignor Ginty truly embraces this mission and is deeply invested in shaping the development of the whole person here at St. Matthew School.  It is a pleasure to work alongside him.”

The following quote from Msgr. Ginty himself perfectly captures his deep appreciation of Catholic school education: “I am a proud beneficiary of twenty years of Catholic education. My education and formation as a child and young adult can be credited to first of all my parents, but also the Sisters of St. Joseph who taught me in grade school in Philadelphia, and to the Brothers of the Holy Cross at Holy Cross High School in Waterbury. The quality of education which I received has helped me in so many ways to be the person that I am today. Being a pastor and running a parish school certainly has its challenges, but all the effort is worth it in knowing that you are helping to provide that same assistance to our youth today that I received from my many years of Catholic education. In a sense, it’s ‘payback time’ and I am happy to do all I can do to promote our Catholic schools and the wonderful education and formation they provide.”

In addition to his role as a parish shepherd, Msgr. Ginty also serves as a mentor to young priests and a resource for his fellow pastors. He was recently the driving force behind an important workshop that provided critical information to pastors with schools. He also serves on the Archdiocesan School Board, the Holy Cross High School Board, and the HOPES Grants Distribution Committee, and is a former member of the St. Paul Catholic High School Board and the Archdiocesan Presbyteral Council. Not surprisingly, Msgr. Ginty has received several honors over the years, including being named Chaplain of His Holiness, Prelate of Honor, and Knight of the Holy Sepulchre.

Msgr. Ginty brings great faith, joyfulness and humor to his every contact, enriching each life he touches. According to Superintendent Griffin, “Msgr. Ginty is deeply deserving of this honor, as a pastor who is firmly grounded in a faith tradition that was nurtured by his family, Catholic education, and a deep, abiding love for God. It is his chosen mission to provide that same spiritual foundation to his St. Matthew students, and he works hard each day to ensure that they receive the best possible education while encountering Christ on a daily basis.”

The Archdiocese of Hartford is proud to recognize the dedication and many accomplishments of Msgr. Thomas Ginty as the 2017 – 2018 Distinguished Elementary School Pastor.