

## **St. John Paul II Catholic High School Welcomes New President**

The Board of Trustees of St. John Paul II Catholic High School, in conjunction with Bishop Raica, announces the appointment of Sister Tonette Sperando, O.S.B., as President. Sister Tonette, an experienced professional educator and leader, will focus on community outreach and development, while Headmaster Dr. Jeremiah Russell continues to steer academics and operations. Sister Tonette, a Birmingham native, has been a professed member of the Benedictine Sisters of Cullman, Alabama, at Sacred Heart Monastery for 31 years. Professionally, she served as teacher and Principal at Sacred Heart School in Cullman and Principal and President at Holy Spirit School in Tuscaloosa. She has also held key leadership roles in her Benedictine community as Treasurer, Development Director, and, most recently, Prioress.

Catholic education has been both a profession and “a passion of mine throughout the years,” says Sister Tonette, “and it is humbling, exciting and an absolute joy to be returning to this ministry in North Alabama.” Reflecting on her leadership philosophy, she notes that “we are a relational people, called to promote unity among ourselves, the larger church, and the world at-large.” She continues, “Together, as we listen with the ‘ear of our hearts’ as instructed by St. Benedict, we will hear God’s voice calling the St. John Paul II Catholic High School community into its future, and I am delighted to be a part of that future.”

Sister Tonette will take office July 1, 2022, with participation in various school events throughout this academic year. JP II is grateful to Father Lubrano and the St. Joseph’s community for all your support over the years. We ask for your prayers for Sister as she moves to Huntsville and transitions into her new role. Welcome Sister Tonette!