



August 1, 2024

Dear MBSP Charger Families,

I hope and pray this summer has been a time for some relaxation and family time. It certainly has been an eventful summer for me. In April, Bishop Thomas asked me to become your pastor effective July 1<sup>st</sup>. At that time, the new school year seemed like such a long way off. Well, now it is almost here, and I feel truly blessed to be with you. It has only been a month, but I am starting to know my way around and get to know the faculty and staff of the school and parish.

I am impressed by the passion of the leadership in the school and know your children are in the best of hands with such faith-filled women and men.

Now for a little biographical information. I am 61 years old and have been a priest for 28 years. I grew up in Van Wert, Ohio. My immediate family consists of 3 older sisters, an older brother, and a twin sister. All are married with adult children. My parents are deceased. I went to St. Mary grade school in Van Wert and then to public high school. After high school, I followed my brothers' footsteps. I graduated from BGSU with a degree in Management and immediately took a job as a buyer with NCR (National Cash Register). My practice of the faith continued throughout this time.

After 5 years and much discernment, I left my job, began my studies at St. Meinrad Seminary and was ordained in 1996. My previous assignments have been Associate Pastor of St. Patrick of Heatherdowns, Associate Pastor St. Mary in Tiffin, Associate Pastor St. Michael in Findlay, Pastor Immaculate Conception in Bellevue, Pastor St. Joseph Maumee, and Pastor St. Ignatius in Oregon/Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Bono.

I look forward to meeting the students and getting to know them, as well as you. Please don't hesitate to introduce yourself to me. I plan to have an active presence in the school.

Sincerely in Christ,

**Father Keith A. Stripe, Pastor**

*Most Blessed Sacrament Parish, Toledo*